

PSYCHIC SCIENCE

LTD.

VOL. V. No. 2.

JULY, 1926.

CONTENTS :

PAGE

Frontispiece. Portrait of Mrs. Champion de Crespigny	
Editorial Notes - - - - -	85
Portrait of Prof. F. W. Pawlowski, of Michigan Univ. U.S.A.	
Early Physical Phenomena with Kluski - - -	89
(From Notes by Col. Ocholowicz)	
Alleged Psychic Photograph of a Living Person -	93
(Illustrated)	
A Personal Experience with the Crewe Circle -	94
(Illustrated) by P. Moore Brown	
PRAYER - - - - -	97
By Meredith Starr	
Frau Maria Silbert of Graz (with portrait) and her	98
Amazing Phenomena ; by Mrs. Hewat McKenzie	
The "Gordon Davis" Case of a Living Communicator	144
(Letters to the Editor)	
NOTES BY THE WAY - - - - -	146
BOOK REVIEWS.	
"Introduction a la Metapsychique Humain" - - -	151
By Stanley de Brath	
"The Land of Mist" by A. Conan Doyle - - -	155
"The Psychology and Development of Mediumship" - - -	158
By Horace Leaf	
CURRENT PERIODICALS p. 160	
COLLEGE INFORMATION, &c.	THE COLLEGE LIBRARY 161

Published Quarterly by The British College, 59, Holland Park, London, W.11., from whom it can be obtained.

London Distributing Agents :

Messrs. L. N. Fowler & Co., 7, Imperial Arcade, Ludgate Circus, E. C.4.

Can be obtained at the Psychic Bookshop, Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W.

Single copy 2/6. Post paid 2/9. Yearly Subscription 11/- Post paid.

U.S.A. Subscription \$2.75 Post Free.

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF PSYCHIC SCIENCE

Limited by Guarantee.

Ltd.

Established 1920.

Incorporated 1925.

59, HOLLAND PARK, W.11.

Telephone : Park 4907.

Hon. Principal :

J. HEWAT MCKENZIE.

Hon. Secretary :

BARBARA MCKENZIE (MRS.)

ADVISORY COUNCIL.

President :

SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, M.D., LL.D.

Chairman :

MRS. ST. CLAIR STOBART.

Vice-Chairman :

REV. C. DRAYTON THOMAS.

Members of Council :

WALTER BALDWIN.

FREDK. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A.

STANLEY DE BRATH, M.I.C.E.

MRS. KELWAY BAMBER.

MRS. CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY.

MRS. DEVENISH.

JOHN HEELAS.

CHARLES MARSHALL.

HARRY C. SCOFIELD.

A. W. TRETHEWY.

Honorary Members :

THE VISCOUNTESS GREY OF FALLODON.

BRIG.-GEN. F. C. CARTER, C.B. PROF. F. W. PAWLOWSKI (Michigan).

MAJOR C. C. COLLEY.

MISS F. R. SCRATCHERD.

MR. G. R. S. MEAD.

MR. JOSEPH DE WYCKOFF.

THE COLLEGE FOUNDATION TRUST FUND.

Trustees—SIR ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE, M.D., LL.D.

MRS. ST. CLAIR STOBART.

MR. HARRY C. SCOFIELD.

The above Fund has been established to ensure the future of the College, and, in addition to the generous support given by many in yearly subscriptions, the following Life appointments can be claimed.

Since the Trust Fund was established in January, 1925, the following have been taken up by members.

Life Governors (£200)	...	...	1
Life Patrons (£100)	...	...	6
Life Members (£50)	...	...	14
Life Associates (£25)	...	...	21

Generous *Donations* from 40 Members have also been received for the Fund.

The Trustees will welcome *Bequests*, a suitable form being provided for this.

Bankers—The Midland Bank, Ltd., Notting Hill Gate.

Quarterly Transactions

OF THE

British College of Psychic Science,

Ltd.

Editor - - - F. BLIGH BOND, F.R.I.B.A.

Responsibility for the Contents of any article appearing in these Transactions rests entirely with the Contributor, and not with the College.

Vol. V.

JULY, 1926.

No. 2.

CONTENTS.

PAGE

Frontispiece. Portrait of Mrs. Champion de Crespigny.	
Editorial Notes - - - - -	85
Portrait of Prof. F. W. Pawlowski, of Michigan Univ. U.S.A.	
Early Physical Phenomena with Kluski - - - <i>(From Notes by Col Ocholowicz)</i>	89
Alleged Psychic Photograph of a Living Person - <i>(Illustrated)</i>	93
A Personal Experience with the Crewe Circle - - <i>(Illustrated), by P. Moore Browne</i>	94
PRAYER - - - - - <i>By Meredith Starr</i>	97
Frau Maria Silbert of Graz <i>(with Portrait) and her Amazing Phenomena; by Mrs. Hewat McKenzie</i>	98
The "Gordon Davis" Case of a Living Communicator <i>(Letters to the Editor)</i>	144
NOTES BY THE WAY - - - - -	146
BOOK REVIEWS - - - - -	151
CURRENT PERIODICALS p. 160	THE COLLEGE LIBRARY 161
COLLEGE INFORMATION, &c.	

Published Quarterly by THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF PSYCHIC SCIENCE,
59, Holland Park, London, W.11.



Photo by Dora Head.]

[106, Holland Park Avenue, W.11.

Mrs. PHILIP CHAMPION DE CRESPIGNY.
(A Member of Executive Council of the College.)

Quarterly Transactions

OF THE

British College of Psychic Science.

Vol. V.—No. 2.

July, 1926.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

WE print this time a review by Mr. Stanley de Brath of M. René Sudre's "Introduction a la Métapsychique Humaine," and we feel that this exposition of the principles and theories at issue has an importance far outweighing the modest place given to it in the brief space allotted to his remarks. Questions are raised which must inevitably come to the forefront in debate upon the nature of man's complex personality, and we obtain a glimpse of a more real foundation on which to build our views and concepts of that mysterious entity, the *subconscious mind*, so little understood and so much a source of misconception by hasty and shallow thinkers.

There is still a wide-spread tendency on the part of new recruits to psychical research to adopt this term as explanatory of all the obscure phenomena of a mental order which are present in the various phases of mediumship. We have noted this especially among the clergy, who, whilst shy of spiritualistic explanations, are yet attracted to the study of psychical phenomena. With these the magic formula, "the subconscious mind," is sufficient to explain and elucidate all. It needs no discussion, as it is in itself an answer to all argument. Perhaps in no case has a mere hypothesis and an ill-defined one at that, assumed to such an extent the authority of a dogma or article of faith.

We have been recently in correspondence with an eminent divine who has been greatly impressed with the occurrence of recondite knowledge of Hebrew names and institutions given through a medium whose normal knowledge could not account for this in

the least degree. There was the usual claim to inspirational prompting on the part of certain deceased—and long deceased—entities. The communication contained abundant historical matter of a kind practically inaccessible to any but a life-long student of the times depicted. But on being challenged as to his actual view of the origin, he confidently asserted that the powers of the subconscious mind would account for all. He instanced the well-known case of the maidservant who had in trance given utterance to much the same order of specialised knowledge, and the explanation given that the girl had been in and out of her master's room whilst he had been in the habit of declaiming passages from the classic writers, etc. To the mind of an older generation, not yet habituated to the idea of a possible sympathetic union of personalities in certain states of psychic responsiveness, the explanation that she had "picked up" and unconsciously woven into a coherent fabric these stray fragments of speech and thought, might seem sufficient, and would in fact be the only obvious inference. But for our modern exponents of the *subconscious mind* theory there are formidable difficulties to be encountered if this is to be adopted and these difficulties are indeed insuperable, unless we are prepared to swallow wholesale the quite indigestible belief that the brain can unconsciously weave thought of a coherent nature out of fragments of speech or writing for the understanding of which neither the intellectual capacity nor the education is present to generate intelligible ideas concerning it.

The animistic theory, as Mr. de Brath says, does not appear to cover the facts. It is to be feared that it ignores some of the most important. Why is this? How comes it that men of standing in psychical and metapsychical learning prefer to hold to this very inadequate theory in preference to the spiritualistic, which *does* seem at least to account for much more in the phenomena than the other? The answer is hinted at in the article we print. It is an *indolent hypothesis: it explains everything in advance, rules and exceptions alike, and leaves nothing to be discovered. We need a hypothesis less falsified by moral considerations, by anxiety as to good and evil, and by the needs of the heart.*

If our contributor here correctly represents the mind of the scientific objector to the spiritualistic view, then it seems to follow that whether true or false, this view is avoided because the investigator does not trust himself to discriminate between scientific and moral or emotional values. Or, on another ground, he is not interested in maintaining a theory which explains so much that it leaves him and his colleagues nothing to wrangle over! But there are here no intrinsic objections to the spiritualistic hypothesis as such. They are purely adventitious and do not in the slightest degree affect its superior validity as covering the facts in a way that the animistic does not.

The objection to the spiritualistic theory on the ground that it is apt to be falsified by moral considerations is equivalent to saying that moral law has no relation to psycho-physical law, which is absurd. It also implies that moral or emotional considerations have no proper relation to the scientific study of phenomena; and again this is contrary to fact. All psychical phenomena are the product of psychical states, and psychical states are in all cases the outcome of emotional forces. It is now commonly known that you cannot have a successful séance for psychical phenomena without the stimulation of sympathetic emotion; and for this reason the unsympathetic habitually fail to obtain results. In the study of the human *psyche* we are not dealing with merely physical laws and conditions, but with certain products of peculiar psychic moods and faculties stimulated by emotional phases under the control of certain degrees and orders of intelligence.

What we apprehend to be the only valid ground of this objection is the aversion rightly felt by the scientific mind to *unbalanced* emotional states prevalent among ordinary enquirers. But these surely should not be allowed to affect the policy and practice of the scientific student. Surely they can be excluded without the sacrifice of the best working hypothesis yet apparent? Science will never master an understanding of psychical and psycho-physical law until it recognises the emotional basis of the workings of this law in regard to the control of Matter by Mind known as *Ideoplasticity*.

Of Leibnitz's Monadic view of Personality, the world is destined to hear a great deal more. It may be said to contain the germ of the future hypothesis which will displace finally the crude and unscientific dogma of the "subconscious," as it is made to account for all the things which a high order of consciousness alone can do. When we realise the true meaning of that immortal saying "we are every one members one of another," we shall be better able to comprehend the scientific accuracy of the fact and its precise correspondence with all emotional and moral values known to man. Leibnitz will then be seen to have enunciated the same truth on the side of philosophy and science.

The theory of Leibnitz, which predicates a complex structure for the mind or personality of the individual, has its analogies everywhere in Nature from the chemical atom to the stellar nucleus or system, as also in human society from the family up through more complex grades of association, to the State or nation. All such organisations have a dominant character of their own, and this consists in the integration of all the associated units in a common harmony. So it may well be with the personality of the individual. In that personality are innumerable elements racial and personal: yet not his or her exclusive possession. In thinking thus lies the great heresy of the "subconscious." Let

us extend the idea of multiple personality as shewn in abnormal states of dissociation, in the succession of different moods in the individual—moods often antagonistic in character—and we get a view of possibilities of change in grouping and development of character in an evolutionary sense which no other theory seems able to account for so rationally as that which Leibnitz has advanced. The impress of a strong personality upon others in his environment can be well understood in the light of a sympathetic sharing of certain of the monadic constituents in the mental galaxy of each. The nature of the “spiritualistic guides” and “controls” is readily accounted for if we regard them as subconsciously members of the group—outlying members it may be—which is controlled primarily by the normal waking intelligence of the subject. The phenomena of clairvoyance and psychometry fall into their place, together with other phases of lucidity, as manifestations of that radiant activity of Mind which is ever impinging upon the structure of the brain and leaving its impress in the stimulation of creative idea which, when awakened in one mind, can be imparted to others capable of a kindred vibratory response.

If A and B are separate and discrete personalities, self-contained original spirits, it is impossible to conceive the nature of the process by which thought and will are transferred from the one to the other across that barrier, which it is assumed divides the two Egos. But if A and B are regarded as responsible heads of two complex organisations within each of which are members common to both and in sympathy with the policy and purpose of both, then we have a foundation in thought on which we can bridge the gulf of Personality.

Each of the groups constituting a human person has a radiating influence and may attract to itself by sympathetic thought other monadic entities or groups from without, just as the chemical atom may take up an extra ion or ions and harmonise its activities with the group, changing its nature through this accession. In like manner we are in spiritual flux, absorbing parts of the personality of others and assimilating these with our own, thus bringing nearer the fulfilment of the archetypal designs of which our present personalities are mere outline sketches, crude and inchoate.

The Editor, if all goes well, will be in America for a lecturing tour planned by friends of the A.S.P.R. to run through the autumn. The arrangements for his tour are in the hands of Mr. W. B. Feakins, of Times Building, New York, to whom any communications should be addressed, if special localities are to be visited, at an early date. Glastonbury and its history will figure largely upon his programme, which will appeal to students of ancient tradition and mediæval architecture as well as to those who acknowledge the significance of this venerable site as the first home of Christianity in Britain.



F. W. PAWLOWSKI.

(Professor of Aeronautical Engineering at Michigan University, U.S.A.)
An Hon. Member of the College, and a Contributor to *Psychic Science*.

EARLY PHYSICAL PHENOMENA WITH KLUSKI.

Notes prepared by Mrs. McKenzie.

HERR Franek Kluski, of Warsaw, whose remarkable mediumship has been reported in this Journal in several recent issues by Professor Pawlowski, and in articles from Col. Ocholowicz's recent book, is so widely known for his materialisation phenomena, and the wax moulds produced through these, that some other aspects of his psychic powers, especially in his early stages, may be overlooked or remain unknown. Herein lies the value of Col. Ocholowicz's work, unfortunately only in Polish at present, and from which I have pleasure in giving the readers of PSYCHIC SCIENCE some extracts.

Franek Kluski's gifts are used voluntarily and freely for the benefit of science or the comfort of mourners. His other profession precludes his giving too much time to it, and he has no desire to do so at the moment.

In the latter half of 1919, reports Col. Ocholowicz, some curious manifestations took place at the more or less regular sittings Kluski was at that time holding with a group of friends, of which Col. Ocholowicz was one.

On some occasions great pyramids were built up in the middle of the circle out of different objects brought from various parts of the room. This was done in the darkness of the séance, and built up in such a curious way, that when sitters tried to reproduce the arrangement in full light, they found it impossible. The circle was composed of a close circle of sitters, and there was no table in the centre, as was the later custom in Kluski's séances. This empty space seemed to provide room for such manifestations as the pyramids.

The building of these necessitated the fetching and carrying of several objects from different parts of the room, bringing them over the heads of the sitters into the middle of the circle, quite a delicate operation with a dozen sitters. No one, however, was ever jostled or touched by any of the things being carried, nor were there any sounds of footsteps, though sitters noticed characteristic crackings and rustlings of articles during their travel over their heads.

To give his readers a better idea of what happened, Col. O. describes the appearance of such a pyramid when the light was put up. In the middle of the circle was a table, on this was a

chair, but balanced on three legs only, the fourth one in the air with no support. For equilibrium's sake a heavy wooden pillar was set on the chair, on the top of all was a heavy bronze candelabra standing in such a way that it balanced the position of the column.

This pyramid reached almost to the ceiling, and at the moment of lighting up impressed the sitters in such a way that all of them rushed impetuously to hold it up because it looked at every moment as if it would fall upon their heads. At this time such manifestations used to form half of all the phenomena at any séance and the regular sitters learned to associate particular manifestations with particular intelligences, whom at that time, however, they only sensed, but did not see. Gradually these more violent forms of manifestation passed, for the sitters did not care for them, and the medium disliked his furniture being displaced and his goods being handled, and so the general desire and interest drew to the circle those, invisible helpers who could manifest themselves as human apparitions.

It was noticed particularly, that at séances where luminous phenomena occurred, sitters were happy and comfortable and experienced a feeling of satisfaction; this was in contrast to séances where the heavier physical phenomena accompanied by strong movements occurred. The latter brought a feeling of enervation to the sitters, which often lasted for a considerable period afterwards. (This is a feature often noticed with other mediums, as if the sitters are heavily drawn upon for the ectoplasmic energy, its outgoing often manifests itself in loss of weight on their part as well as on that of the medium.) It was noted, too, that an increase of the heavier phenomena resulted in the diminution and sometimes in the complete disappearance of the luminous appearances. No violent phenomena could appear at the same time as the luminous apparitions, which would appear only after the calming of the former.

Col. Ocholowicz has some interesting notes on the influence of the medium's mind on the character of the phenomena at any given sitting. He records an occasion in 1919 at a séance composed entirely of men sitters. The sitting began late, and after several left it was resumed to the small hours; they used neither the phosphorescent slate nor the red lamp, but sat in total darkness. Before this second part began, the medium briefly left the séance room to visit another room in the flat, and when he came back the sitters could notice on his face traces of great excitement which he restrained with difficulty; as he was in quite a pleasant mood before, this was the more noticeable. They learned afterwards the cause of his irritation, which to them did not seem so serious as the excitement warranted, but a medium in the middle of a séance is in a peculiarly sensitive condition, and everything becomes magnified in importance.

He was apparently ready to burst out in wrath over the happening, but controlled himself, and the other part of the séance began immediately upon his return.

Manifestations took place almost at once when the light was put out, and continued during the whole of the sitting for about an hour without ceasing, a very unusual occurrence in itself. Not one luminous manifestation was noted, only levitations of objects, and these of a very rough nature, so that anyone might have been hurt, judging by the state of the room when the light was put up at the close. The heavy wooden pillar, noted above in the pyramid incident, which stood in a corner of the room at some distance from the circle and the medium, seemed to be dragged out and apparently was brought into the circle, and knocked against the ceiling over the heads of the sitters. It seemed as if suspended there for a brief space, and then fell between two of the sitters, but without touching them. A small easel from the same corner, a much lighter article than the pillar, was lifted to the ceiling in the same way, and fell with a deafening crash on to the same spot as the pillar. The sitters began to be afraid of these violent phenomena which were crowded into the first ten minutes and agreed to turn up the lights. The medium did not fall into trance and remained quite silent. The pillar, weighing about 20 kilogrammes, and the easel were put back in their places, and in a few minutes the lights were again extinguished and the séance resumed. Immediately the violent manifestations seemingly increased in vehemence, and appeared to be occurring in various parts of the room; displacements and tugging of furniture were heard from different corners, and small objects seemed to be moved from place to place in a violent manner. The sitters began to grow fearful and exhausted again, and after ten minutes of this, lighted up to restore quiet. As in the first period, the medium was still not entranced, and asked solicitously whether everyone was all right. After a short break the light was put out again, and it was decided, if possible, not to light up again, but to co-ordinate the will of all the sitters to oppose the violence of the phenomena. The manifestations began again the moment the light was put out, and were as violent as ever. The sitters forgot their agreement to act together against these undesirable manifestations, and each began acting on his own account. One began to pray loudly, another pronounced an Indian or Arabic conjuration, the rest, with the exception of the medium, who kept silent, tried to modify the phenomena by an appeal to those causing them. But it did not help in the least; on the contrary, Col. O. got the impression that these disunited efforts only strengthened the violence of the happenings. Chairs and smaller objects were thrown about without cessation. One with a sitter in it began suddenly to levitate upwards, and, notwithstanding his entreaties and those of his fellow sitters, was lifted

about 4 feet, then began to fall quickly, but slowed down just before reaching the floor, and was put down quite softly, without injuring the sitter in the least.

A bottle of red wine, about a third full, stood on the hearth. It was lifted to the ceiling (to judge by the sound), and fell crashing to the floor, breaking into pieces. The light was again turned up, and the manifestations at once ceased. It was noticed that the bottom of the bottle was broken in such a way as if the lower part had been cut clean off with a knife from the upper part, which was smashed in very small pieces. The chairs about the room were all displaced or turned upside down, and various articles had been moved about.

The cessation of the violence on the light being turned on, and the resumption as soon as it was extinguished, showed that the force was still in being, but put out of action, by the action of light upon it. No other manifestation, such as lights, rappings, or materialisations, were heard or seen at this séance; the only impression left on the sitters was that the furniture had suddenly become alive.

The above account of this dynamic energy, based apparently upon this occasion on an irritated condition of the medium, shows how natural the psychic force is, and how it can be used to destroy or to create. Wrath is always a disintegrating force on the physical plane—to dash and throw things about is an outlet often used. The medium controlled himself for the sake of his friends, and immediately the psychic force, acting through him, betrayed the vehemence of his irritation. That no hurt came to anyone showed that there was control in spite of the violence, and that probably the power supplied by the dynamic force of anger gave the intelligences greater force than they knew what to do with. It would have been interesting to know whether the medium felt quite relieved of his anger by the close of the sitting. We should expect so.

An incident of the same class came to my notice some time ago. The medium became highly irritated over some matter during the séance, and loud knocks and part levitation of the table in an unusual way resulted. After the séance a bell on a table was violently thrown down and a small statue thrown and broken. We could only trace it to some extra psychic force let loose through the medium's annoyance.

I recall, too, that once when I reported to Commander Kogelnik, of Braunau, with whom Hanni, the first poltergeist medium the College studied—was employed as a servant before she came to London, that after a month or two the disturbances had practically ceased, he replied, "Ah, you are treating her too well, making her too happy. Put her with someone who will annoy her and make her angry, and you will soon see things happen again." Not that Capt. Kogelnik did not wish the girl to be cured, but he



4
w
D

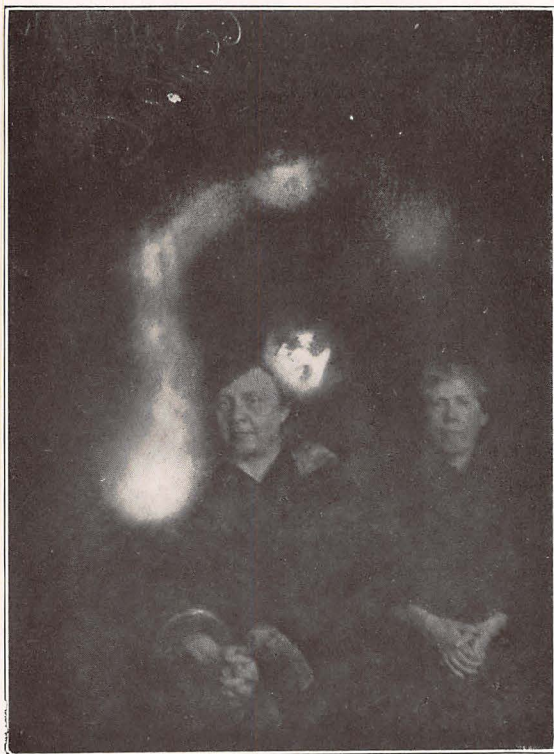


Fig. 1.

A CREWE CIRCLE PHOTOGRAPH. (*From original negative.*)

Sitters.—Miss F. R. SCATCHERD and a Russian Visitor.

“Extra,” recognised as living son of the sitter.



Fig. 2.

Reproduction of a lantern slide of same result, with a normal photograph of the living boy inset on right, and placed lengthwise for easy comparison.

wished us to be able to study the phenomena a little longer. His advice was not taken, however, and Hanni became a happy, healthy girl.

Mediumship provides some strange studies in psychology, and it is important for the serious student to understand the darker and less attractive side, for only so can the conditions which produce the finer phenomena be understood and provided.)

ALLEGED PSYCHIC PHOTOGRAPH OF A LIVING PERSON.

MUCH discussion has arisen upon the "Gordon Davis" case, dealt with in April issue of the Quarterly, in which, at a séance, contact of a striking kind seemed to be made with a man supposedly dead, but who was ultimately discovered to be alive and quite unaware of anything extraordinary taking place as far as he was concerned. Readers may be interested to see a Crewe Circle "extra" which is claimed to be a very good likeness of a living son of the sitter, a Russian lady, who, accompanied by Miss Scatcherd, visited the College in 1924, for the purpose of an experiment. She was quite unknown to the psychic photographers, and was a visitor in England for but a brief period.

When she received the print, she was struck by the likeness of the "extra" (see Fig. 1) to her living son, a lad of fourteen, alive and well in Russia, as was subsequently ascertained. Her sister and other relatives in England also recognised the boy and the inset in Fig. 2 of a normal photograph of the lad was later given to me for comparison.

I gleaned from the mother that she was particularly anxious about the boy at the time that the psychic photograph was taken, as conditions were most disturbed in the district in which he lived in Russia, and she feared the influence of the extremists on his youthful mind.

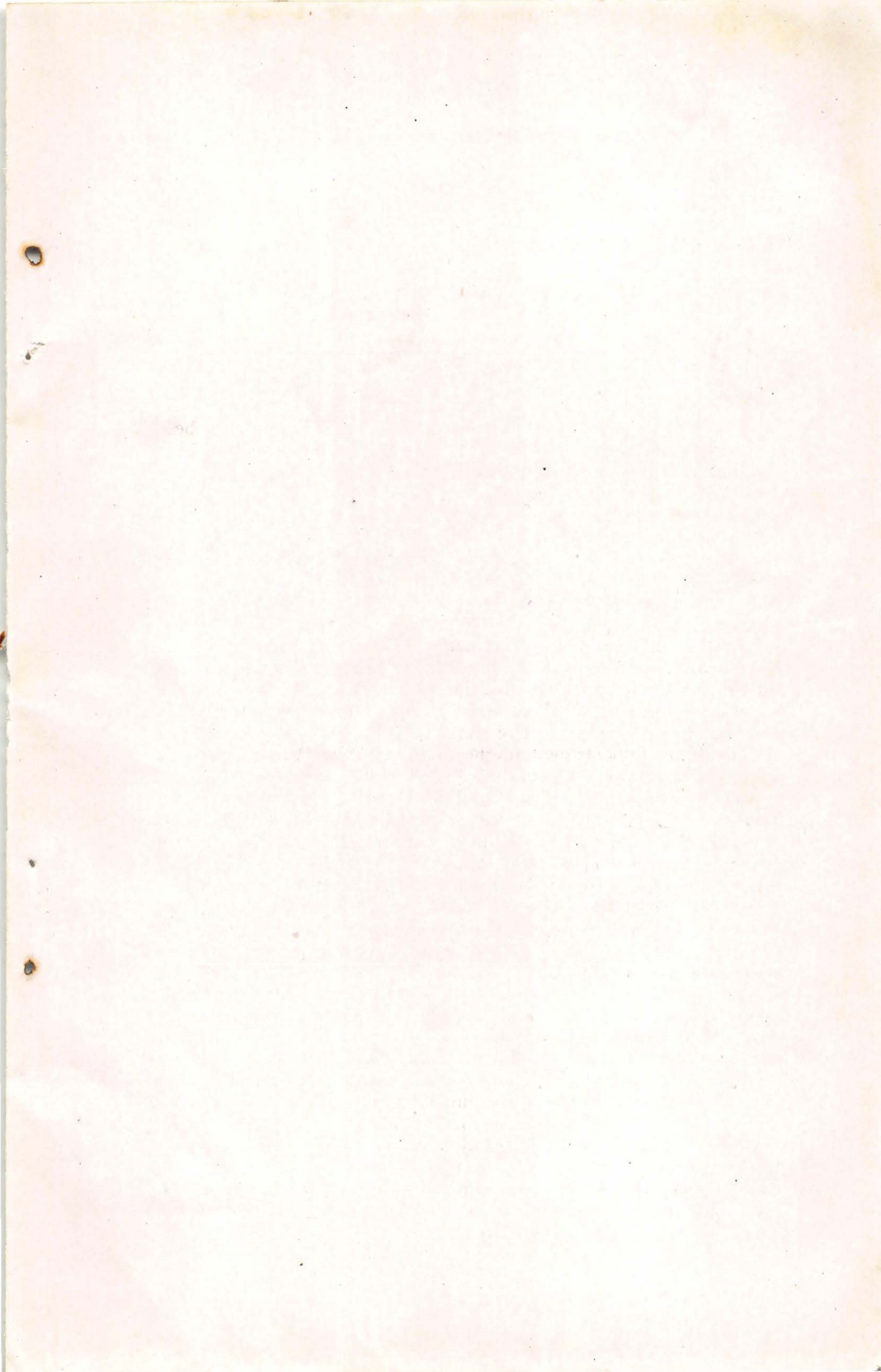
A PERSONAL EXPERIENCE IN PSYCHIC PHOTOGRAPHY, WITH THE CREWE CIRCLE.

By P. Moore Browne.

THE following account of a visit to the Crewe Circle may be of interest, as the experience of one keenly desirous of a certain result for personal reasons, but equally interested from a critical point of view in a form of mediumship which presents many intriguing problems of mechanism and psychology. I possessed some considerable knowledge of photography, have made it, and especially its more intricate refinements (including several forms of faking) a hobby for many years; and having lived a great deal in an atmosphere of scientific method, I was prepared to watch the processes and gauge the results with a critical eye. I knew many specific suggestions as to possible methods of fraud had been made, and I wished to bear these in my mind, for although from my reading on the subject it appeared that these had been sufficiently refuted, to obtain personal proof at first hand is the legitimate desire of anyone of a scientific turn of mind.

I made an appointment in the name of Mrs. Brown, from the address in London of a person bearing a different name. I bought a packet of Imperial Special Rapid plates at the Haymarket Stores, London, which I took with me to Crewe. After the preliminary short service of prayer, with our hands placed on the box of plates (still in the brown paper and string of the shop), Mr. Hope took me into his little dark room, which I noticed had but one entrance. I unpacked the box of plates myself, and loaded the first two into the slide, having previously examined the slide closely in a very good red light—brighter, indeed, than I should have risked in my own dark room, and which illuminated the whole of the shelf where loading and developing took place, and enabled me to see every movement of Mr. Hope's hands. I initialled and dated the plates before and after they were put into the slides, put the slide in my pocket, and went into the little studio, where I examined the camera inside and out, removed and examined the lens, noting that there was no shutter, and finally focussed the sitter's chair, and put the slide into the camera.

Then, taking my seat, I closely watched the only contact made by Mr. Hope with the camera, which consisted in drawing out the shutter of the slide and closing it again, after an exposure of about ten seconds, both his hands being in full view.



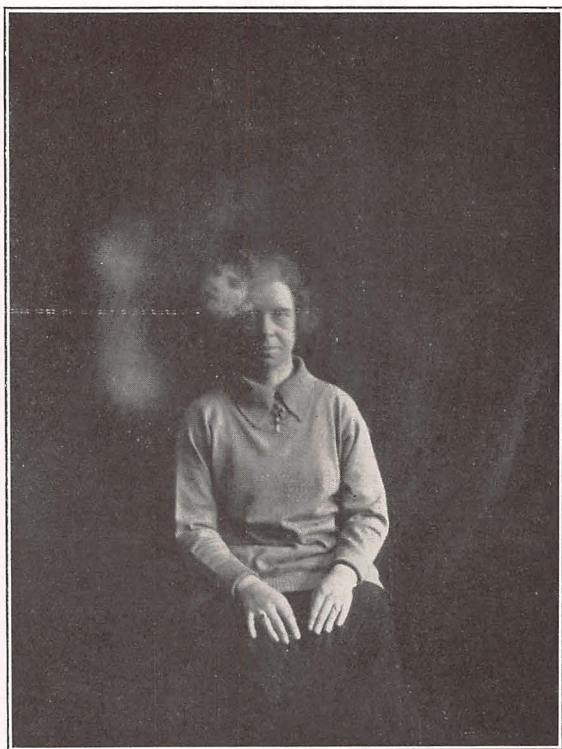
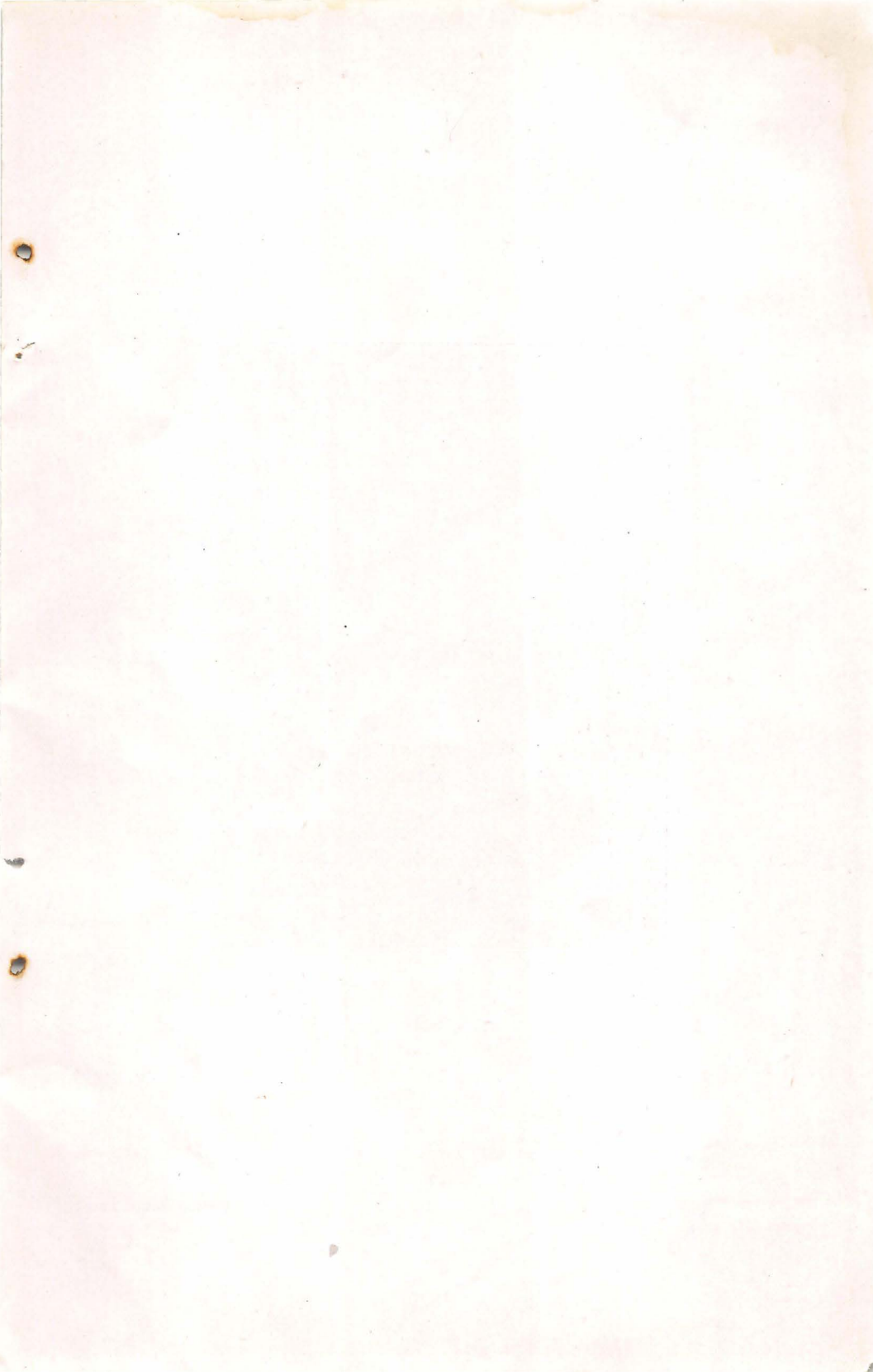


Fig. 1.



Fig. 2.



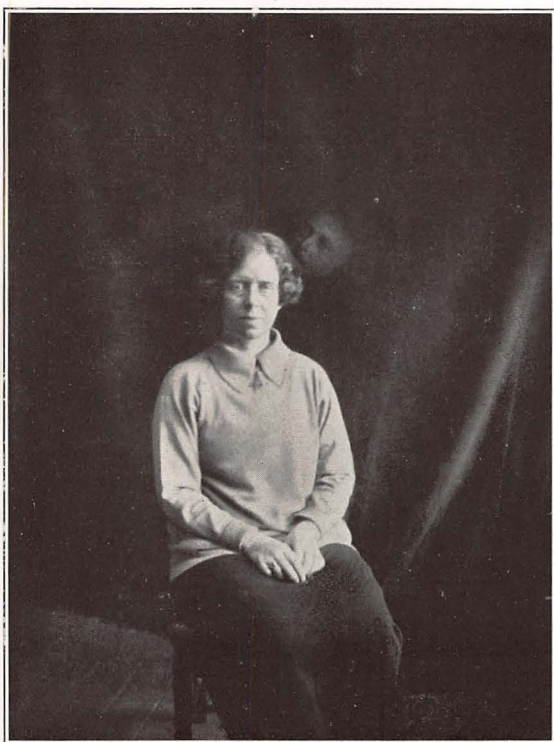


Fig. 3.

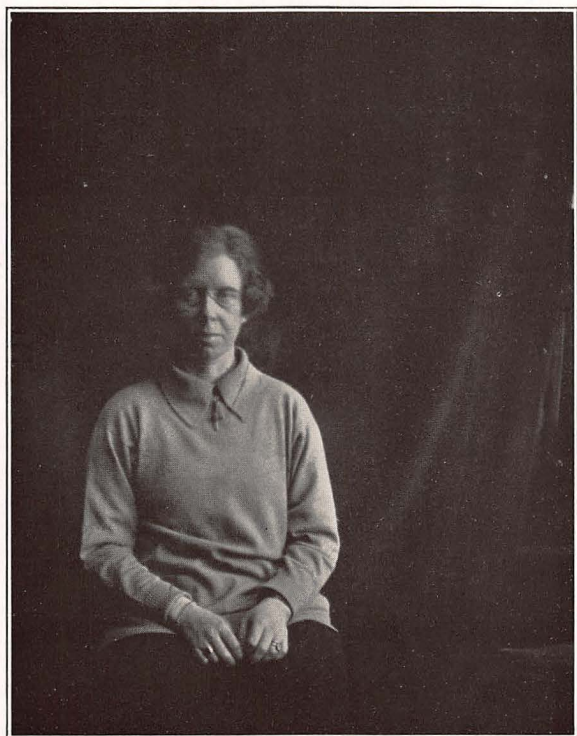


Fig. 4.

Then I reversed the slide for the second exposure; after which I removed the slide, took it into the dark room, unloaded it and developed the plates, which Mr. Hope never touched. An "extra" appeared on the second plate, appreciably *after* the appearance of the sitter's figure; development being slightly longer than the normal for a correctly exposed negative. The "extra" appeared at first to consist of three vague cloudy patches; but as will be described later, a well-defined head was seen when examined in day-light.

Having obtained an "extra" under strictest conditions, leaving no possible loophole for substitution of a prepared plate, I thought it would be interesting to see if Mr. Hope's hands coming in contact with the plates would produce a more powerful supernormal result; so he loaded the next four plates exposed, under my close observation, and put the slide in the camera, I developing them as before. 3 and 4 showed no extra, 5 had a very large well-defined head upon it, and 6 gave no supernormal result.

I then took the remaining 6 plates in their box away with me, returning next morning to expose them. The fixed and washed negatives obtained the first day were carefully examined in daylight by me, so that I should know at once if the subsequent prints showed any retouching or alteration.

The next day the remainder of the plates were exposed in the same way, I handling the first two, on number 1 of which an "extra" appeared, and Mr. Hope loading the others. Nos. 9, 10, and 11 were blanks, and on 12 a very poor, faint "extra" was visible. Developing, fixing and washing I carried out as before. An interesting point, which I verified afterwards by test experiments in my own house, on plates of the same grade, and under similar lighting conditions, was that the exposures given by Mr. Hope were very much longer than the normal. His shortest was ten seconds (at full aperture), when I made an exposure of this length at home, a much over-exposed plate resulted, grey and foggy, with poor contrasts. The psychic negatives required prolonged development and were violent in their contrasts. Also, when I tried a fake "extra" with a double exposure, the "extra" being exposed longer than the rest, flashed up simultaneously with the sitter's figure, and was badly over exposed. In Mr. Hope's dark room, the sitter had to be very much over developed before I could get sufficient definition in the "extra," which appeared on the plate *after* the image of the sitter. In the case of the last "extra," it only appeared faintly after we had given hope of anything supernormal on that plate.

The first extra, on Plate 2 (see fig. 1), is of a female head, unknown to me, which has shifted three times before complete materialisation. In the second shift, features have begun to

differentiate. The head is obviously between the camera and the sitter; it is solidly built up and there is no surplus ectoplasm.

The second "extra" on plate 5 (see fig. 2), shows an attractive and interesting bearded face of an elderly man, very well and clearly modelled as the original photograph, giving an impression of being "in the round," and not like a mask or flat drawing. There is a great deal of ectoplasmic cloud, which seems to float up in front of sitter. There is a life-like expression, and much subtle detail about the eyes. I did not recognise the face.

The third "extra," on plate 7 (see fig. 3), shows a portrait resembling a mask, built up of granular substance, with no surplus ectoplasm, and behind my head on the same focal plane as the curtain background. It is not however in contact with the curtain, as a deep shadowed fold in the latter does not affect the chiaro-oscuro of the "extra." This picture is an excellent likeness of my husband, instantly recognised by many people who knew him. It is unlike any known photograph of him in life, and is indeed a better likeness than any I know, though it shows him considerably younger than at the time he passed over. The expression of the eyes in particular is most characteristic. Under a lens, the modelling and contour of eyes, brows, nose and moustache are well seen, and are identically his, and a shadow between the brows indicates a characteristic soft growth of hair almost joining the eyebrows.

The fourth extra (see fig. 4), was a very poor, faint, male face, partially hidden behind the sitter's neck.

I think the three very distinct methods of materialisation in the first three photographs are very interesting. "Extra" 3 might have been suspected of being a picture produced on the background with invisible pigment (though I cannot find it has been proved that this is really possible, and if it was, it could obviously appear as a *drawing* and not a photograph) but had it been, the deep fold in the curtain would have shown as a shadow across the face. Extra No. 1 is certainly in front of the sitter, and had this been obtained by a previous exposure, the lines of the sitter's head would have been visible, making the "extra" appear transparent.

The only weak spot in my control that I can think of, was that the box of plates remained in the dark room while the exposures were made; but the first "extra" was on one of the first two plates, which were taken out by me immediately after I had broken the sealed wrapper, and without letting the box out of my hand. Also the dark room, with its door open and the box on a shelf within a few inches of the door, was in my line of sight throughout the exposures; and I am satisfied that no one could have tampered with it without my noticing it.

The question as to the possibility of "extras" being exteriorised thought forms is a very difficult one, and cannot be gone into here; but if conscious concentration could produce such

things, surely the desired faces would appear more often than they actually do; and one could not consciously create the form of a face unknown to either sitter or medium, but recognised by others, as has so frequently happened. If these vivid pictures are projected out of the unconscious, it is strange that (1) they do not constantly appear on ordinary photographs; and (2) that in view of the vast medley of impressions of various objects stored in the unconscious, they do not represent an endless variety of subjects instead of being in the vast majority of cases, human faces. I think to an unprejudiced mind, however critical, it must seem reasonable to infer a selective intelligence (other than sitter or medium) in operation, and the frequent appearance of likenesses of discarnate friends points to them as directly influencing the process.

PRAYER.

Lord of the Sun! I pray
 Send down a ray
 To quicken hearts whose flame burns dull and dim;
 So that they blaze once more,
 As oft of yore,
 With all the splendour of thy seraphim,
 Whose brilliance never tires
 Lit from those fires
 That everlasting burn thy praise to hymn.

Thy beauty, Radiant Lord,
 Like wine be poured
 Into the hearts of all who live and love,
 So they may once again,
 Healed from all pain,
 Open their arms to clasp Thy holy Dove,
 With hearts that never tire
 Of sweet desire
 And eyes fixed on the Silver Star above.

—MEREDITH STARR.

FRAU MARIA SILBERT OF GRAZ.

By Mrs. Hewat McKenzie, Hon. Sec., B. C. P. S.

(For previous articles on Frau Silbert's mediumship readers are referred to *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*, October, 1922; April, 1923, and October, 1925. The bound volumes are in the College Library.)

The accompanying happy photograph of Frau Silbert is by the kindness of Mrs. Dora Head.

A third visit of Frau Silbert, the well-known Austrian medium, to the College in the late Autumn of 1925, was a matter of congratulation to members, as her two previous visits had aroused the deepest interest among serious students.

It is well known to all who make any pretensions to be students of psychic science, and particularly of the physical aspects of mediumship, that to obtain manifestations of ectoplasmic structures in light, either white or red, presents the greatest difficulty, which until overcome, will prove a hindrance to rapid advance. The late Dr. Geley, wrestled with the problem, with but small success, and so far, a minimum of red light as in the Schneider and "Margery" séances, or some illumination by means of luminous slates, as in the Kluski experiments, is the high water mark reached.

But Frau Silbert's phenomena are unique in this respect; the psychic rods, hands, or whatever shape the extrusions may take, can stand good red, or even full white light to a remarkable degree, and it is this that has constituted the value of her visits to the College. On this occasion we were not perhaps so fortunate as on the two previous visits, in seeing the fully formed materialised hand on repeated occasions: when seen it did not appear to be so well formed, probably the result of the indifferent health which Frau Silbert had experienced between this and her previous visits. A lowering of general vitality would naturally show just in this particular way. It was noticed too, that the articles when returned psychically, were not so clearly separated from the body of the medium as on previous visits.

This is an answer, even of a negative order, to Capt. Neville Maskelyne and others, who glibly suggest that her mediumistic results may be only clever conjuring, which he however even though a few feet from her, at one séance, was quite unable to detect or to suggest how the results might have been obtained



Photo by Dora Head.]

[106, Holland Park Avenue, W.11.

FRAU. MARIA SILBERT.
(Of Graz, Austria.)

under the conditions provided. If they were the product of sleight of hand skill, they would presumably be more varied and more skilful with each succeeding visit; instead, we find a uniformity of phenomena with previous visits, with one or two exceptions, and a weakening in building-up power when the medium is known to be suffering from loss of strength. This fact was verified to myself personally last year by Frau Silbert's medical adviser, on a visit I paid to Graz. He has been a profound student of the phenomena appearing through her mediumship, and therefore knows what he is talking about. It was gratifying therefore to find that her health maintained a very steady level during the College visit, and even improved.

To many students, probably for the first time, Frau Silbert's work has shown the difficulties of physical mediumship, not alone for the observers, hard as they may consider their problems, but for the medium, through whose physical organism these strange and so far largely unplaced manifestations occur.

A medium cannot command phenomena, she must simply be willing to be used, and sitters must be able to give her the necessary "something" which her peculiar power requires as addition to her own nucleus of force.

A medium must neither "strive nor cry," but keep herself still and happy in the face of all difficulties. Only so does she save her psychic energy for manifestation and keep her psychical and mental powers from over-strain. In the use of psychic force we are dealing here with the most delicate of operations, which has been defined by the most careful and experienced students as a withdrawal—in whole, as in the case of full materialisation, or in part, as in Frau Silbert's partial materialisation—of the etheric body, or double, or "soul" of the medium. This, it is postulated, permeates and duplicates every part of the medium's physical body, and is held in the most delicate adjustment to that body and brain, so delicate that often the operation can only take place when the medium is asleep—entranced. The extrusion of a portion no larger than a finger may even require a condition of semi-trance on the part of the medium, and may, if damaged in any way, by sudden noise or rough handling, cause a bruise or even a wound in its sharp retreat to its birth-place, the body of the medium. Both Kluski and Evan Powell have experienced this bruising, and another case in a private circle came to my notice recently. The extrusion in most cases only acts momentarily, projecting with the greatest caution and withdrawing with extreme rapidity if disturbed; it disintegrates into a nebulous mass and vanishes altogether under the action of even red light, while a photographic flashlight may cause an instantaneous break-up, and reveal only distortion, as in the case of some Eva C. photographs, and may sometimes cause sickness and disturbance to the medium.

The extrusion frequently operates first upon some object within

easy reach of the medium's body, and may displace or remove such object without the action having even been seen by the eye of the observer, the rapid rate of the vibrations of particles composing the extrusion escaping ordinary vision.

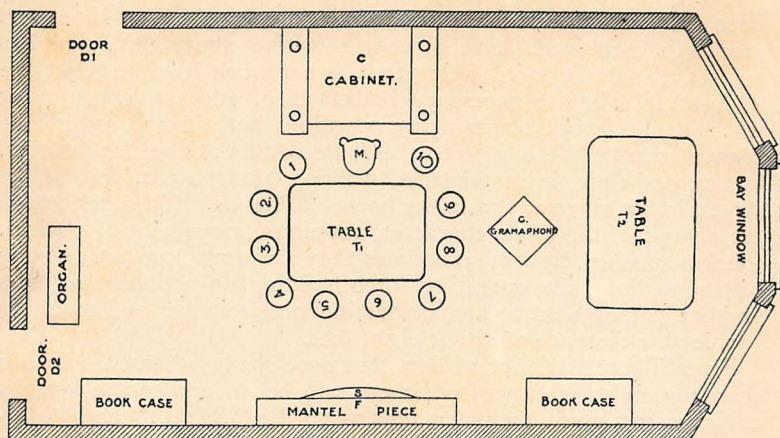
Scientific students in the U.S.A., have recently announced the discovery of what they call the "Cosmic Ray," deduced from certain effects on the electroscope under given conditions, and state that this indicates a frequency ten million times greater than that of the visible spectrum. For several generations psychical investigators have claimed that these powerful non-visible forces, which are yet perfectly capable of lifting and pulling heavy weights, or of forming physical bodies, have been observed at séances and sometimes seen in actual operation. On other occasions they have only been apprehended by the results achieved and deductions made which justify the above conclusions.

CONDITIONS OF FRAU SILBERT'S SÉANCE WORK.

Readers are reminded that at the College, Frau Silbert sits at the middle of one long side of a table with her back to a cabinet hung with curtains, closely surrounded and faced with a group of sitters. The College séance room table used for her work is in size, 6 by 3-ft. and 28-ins. in height. It has four straight legs and no cross bars or supports of any kind. It contains an aperture 10 by 8-ins. cut in the centre of it, about 7-ins. from the side on which the medium sits. Over this is placed a black cloth. This was found useful on previous occasions to enable sitters to see or touch the materialised hands without exposing these to too much light as happens when they come up by her side.

As the movement of articles plays a great part in Frau Silbert's séances, bells, cigarette boxes, lighters, purses and articles of jewellery are placed by sitters under the table, which, for the time, acts as a darkened cabinet. These articles are usually arranged before the medium comes into the room; two of the sitters are made responsible for the arrangement under the table, and sometimes a plan is drawn of their position. A rheostat red light hangs from the ceiling over the table, and can be adjusted at 3 degrees by the person in charge of the séance. The strongest, No. 1, is equal to a good white light, and sometimes white light is used in its stead, the second, No. 2, is a good red light, by which one can see to read and make notes very clearly, the third, No. 3, is a dim red light, sufficient to distinguish everyone at the table and to observe movements.

Miss Eissner, a College member, who speaks German fluently, was present at nearly every sitting held with Frau Silbert at the College, and gave us the invaluable help of the music of her zither, which seemed to assist the medium to lose her self-consciousness in the presence of strangers. As usual, anyone who is often with



the medium is regarded as likely to be an auxiliary in producing the phenomena, and Miss Eissner has not escaped the imputation any more than Mr. Hewat McKenzie or myself, who were present on many occasions. A similar allegation was made against Dr. Geley of Paris, in relation to some of the mediums with whom he experimented.

I can only record my personal indebtedness to Miss Eissner for her devoted help at much personal inconvenience on many occasions. Excellent phenomena took place on a short holiday in the South, with the medium, at Christmas time, when she very kindly gave two sésances to some friends. Miss Eissner was at a distance of 100 miles on these occasions.

Again at the house of some personal friends, remarkable phenomena took place, when neither Miss Eissner nor anyone connected with the College was present. (See later report.)

On the recent visit Frau Silbert was accompanied by one of her sons as a travelling companion. He was never present at the College sésances. It would be wearisome to the reader to detail the many happenings which were duplicated on dozens of occasions before the same or varied sitters. It will be enough to specialise some particular happenings, and to give two or three sésance reports by different note-takers.

The conditions of sitting are always the same with Frau Silbert. The sitters on her right and left are asked to place their feet alongside those of the medium and to retain the contact unless she asks for a rest. Her hands are on the table, in full view, or laid on her lap. If at any time darkness is called for by "Professor Nell" her spirit "control," she asks the sitters at once to hold both her hands as she often stands up on these occasions.

The question is frequently put as to whether Frau Silbert has been examined before and after a sitting, or has had her shoes and stockings examined. She is very sensitive about this, and has refused to submit to it, saying that as her work is so largely done in light this is not necessary in her case, and we agree, after watching her work on so many occasions both in and out of the séance room. We have seen the same results at the dinner table, at any odd time, in restaurants, walking along a corridor, in the street, in the cinema, and in the house of friends. The phenomena are always of the same character, rappings, movement of objects, touches, pushes, lights; sometimes they are very close to the body of the medium, the operating force building up between her limb and the person next to her, or darting out from her and touching people at a distance of six or eight feet.

Frau Silbert no doubt realises that once she lays herself open for search such as is suggested, there will be no end to the lengths critics might go in their demands as in the "Eva C." and "Margery" mediumship. Kluski submits to thorough search to his skin, but this has not prevented him being suspect. Let us be reasonable, and ask what Frau Silbert has to gain through her mediumship, the bulk of which is given without fee or reward to all earnest seekers in her own home. I have seen her work there at odd times when calling by chance, or at a regular séance, and it is no more or less wonderful than what takes place when she kindly leaves home to visit the College or elsewhere.

The extrusions with Frau Silbert certainly have their contact with her body in her lower limbs, and in this respect resemble the mediumship of Miss Kathleen Goligher, of Belfast. Frau Silbert wears a skirt reaching to her ankles, and it is under the skirt that the actual building-up seems to take place, appearing outside of it, as a hand or something that has the power of grasping for a very brief period. The first out-going is probably close to the floor, and an article is seized and drawn nearer to the medium, a fact verified on many occasions by carefully marking and noting at brief intervals the position of the articles placed on the floor. A second operation seems to draw the same article under the skirt or somewhere in the vicinity of the body of the medium, when it is lost to view. The medium in many instances seems to be aware of the article that has been touched by the extrusion, a kind of soul-sensing, and by dumb show, while in light trance, indicates to the sitters what has disappeared. When the article is recovered psychically it may appear in the air above the medium, or be caught upon the table, or found in the underside of the velvet cloth over the aperture as used at the College—a solid table makes no difference however. Or it may suddenly appear in the medium's hands as if handed up to her, or she may retreat into the cabinet behind her, and stretching up her empty hands in full view, suddenly grasp the article or draw a sitter with her who presently finds the missing

article put in her hand. A cabinet is not, however, necessary, Frau Silbert never uses one in her own home. On rare occasions she has withdrawn the article from her bosom in full view of sitters.

The extrusion which performs these miracles usually takes the shape of a hand. It has been seen by observers who have lain on the floor, and watched it manipulating articles: it has been seen grasping the arms of sitters on many occasions; it has gripped the knees of sitters, and the fingers have been clearly felt: it has been held under the table, and felt like a normal hand; and it has been photographed.

As this magazine is intended for general readers as well as to supply a careful record of work undertaken at the College, the matter is arranged in as simple and readable a way as possible. Dr. Geley's advice to observers and recorders was to observe and observe, and to go on recording the facts that come before them in the séance room. It is on an abundance of such carefully observed facts both in mental and physical phenomena that the metapsychic science of the future will be based. This is all I have attempted to do here, and for any theories regarding the method of Frau Silbert's work I must refer readers to the articles by Mr. Hewat McKenzie in *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*, October, 1922, and by the Editor in April, 1923.

The College again records its debt to Frau Silbert for the kindness and patience she has shown in her work, and for the cheerfulness and readiness of her control "Herr Nell," who never tires of his mission of waging war against materialism.

In Graz, Frau Silbert's work is much more of a mental character than that undertaken at the College, and remarkable messages are given by raps; many seek her for comfort and guidance in trouble and bereavement, and they seldom go away empty.

A TYPICAL SITTING WITH FRAU SILBERT.

For those who had not the privilege of sitting with Frau Silbert, the following account of a séance from notes made at the time by Mr. G. R. S. Mead, Editor of "The Quest," will be found enlightening as to general procedure.

Séance Room at the College, 59, Holland Park, W.11.

December 22nd, 1925. Séance began at 3.15 p.m.

Rainy, dull foggy weather.

Present: Frau Silbert (Medium), Miss Eissner, who played the zither, a mother and daughter, another woman, and myself.

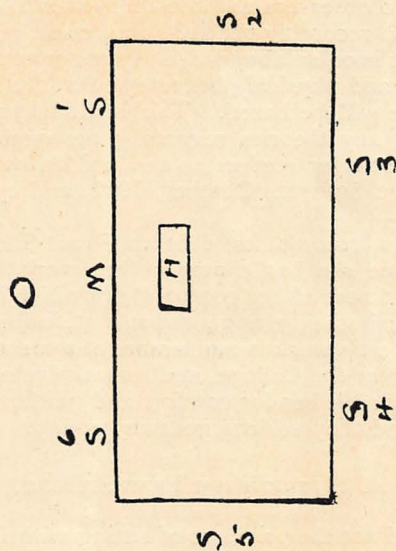
Objects placed under table on floor:—

- 2 small metal cigarette cases.
- 1 Tortoiseshell card case.
- 1 Watch (mine).
- 1 Vanity box, metal, 3-in. diameter.
- 1 Engraver.
- 1 Bell.

On the table was a tambourine and a flash lamp, used sometimes to examine position of articles under table.

Window.

ROUGH DIAGRAM SHOWING POSITION OF SITTERS AT THIS SEANCE.



Door:

M. Medium. S. Sitters. H. Hole in table.
O. Cabinet.

No. 1. Light was used to start séance.

Slight knocks, and tappings began within two minutes. Three answering taps to greetings from the sitters of "Gott zum Gruss." Nine taps in response to my own greetings to Herr "Nell" the control.

No. 2, red light used, everything quite visible, Frau Silbert's feet controlled by sitters on either side of her. Her hands on table.

After a 5 minutes' interval, the velvet over aperture in table moves as if a current of wind was blowing it up from below. Another 5 minutes' wait, the bell was heard to tinkle as if moved slightly.

Another few minutes, and bell begins to move about under table judging by the sound, and definite but brief ringing is heard.

Knocks apparently on table.

Bell again moves about under table, ringing apparently on left side of medium. Some of the sitters held their hands gently on the velvet cloth, and two reported slight touches as if pushed from below.

Medium asks for a short break, and the white light is turned on.

Bell begins again, more riotous, joins in in time with zither music.

No. 2. Red light used and sitting continues; the medium suddenly snatches up the velvet cloth as if gripping something, she turns it over and the vanity box is seen on the underside of the velvet. She takes it, lays down the velvet, and holds the case in her hand for a moment, then suddenly drops it through the hole, it falls on the ground, the lid opens, and the bottom, top, and inside pad are scattered on the floor as we find on examination. The medium has apparently been in a slight trance during this, and something went wrong with the concentration of force causing her to drop the case in this way.

White Light. My place is No. 6, on medium's right hand, left foot touching her right foot. I felt a distinct touch on left foot, but not from a hard object, it felt like a pad of some kind, ? an ectoplasic pseudo-pod.

Examination under table showed one of the silver cigarette cases open and lying on right foot of medium.

The bell was taken up by sitters and placed on table, and the tambourine placed on floor. The medium joins left hands above table with No. 2 sitters, opposite, they count "Ein, zwei, drei," and quickly join right hands below table, and No. 2 sitter says she feels soft touches on back of hand, a second sitter experiences this also. Sitters change places and I move to No. 3 place, opposite medium, where I remain till end of séance.

I try the "one two, three" experiment with the medium, and felt very distinctly on back of my right hand, a touch or blow from a soft object like a pad. The sitter on the medium's left reported that she felt something creeping up her skirt or legs.

Sitters 1 and 6, mother and daughter, change places, daughter feels touches, and mother on left again talks of feeling a tickling sensation.

All the above takes place in full white light.

Four knocks heard, as a signal to change lighting.

No. 2. *Red Light Resumed.* Medium apparently entranced again, makes motions in air with hands as if holding up and manipulating some object and then throwing it behind her. She stands up, goes to cabinet behind her, and seems to pick out of the air high up at the back, the tortoiseshell case, resumes her seat and comes out of the trance.

White Light. The tortoiseshell case on examination is found to be engraved on outside with the word "Nell," and a short perpendicular scratch below the word. The medium seems pleased at finding this; appears not to know anything has occurred, as if she has been entirely unconscious.

Still in white light, one of the two small cigarette cases comes apparently suddenly up through velvet into medium's hands. The cover of cigarette case was closed but on inspection it was found to be inscribed *inside* with the word "Nell."

A conversation took place between sitters about the possibility of passage of matter through matter. "Professor Nell's" mission, about which the medium often speaks, is said to be connected with this. Frau Silbert and Miss Eissner do not seem to know much about the subject. I ask whether "Nell" has explained how the engraving is done; they talk about passage of matter through matter which is somewhat beside the point, which is the scratching or engraving of a signature. Miss Eissner, repeats that "Nell" is said by the Professor

to be only part of his name, the full name has not been given, and will not be till "Nell" has finished his mission with Frau Silbert.

I suggest full name may be Zollner, thus, *Zollne*=Nell. Zollner was the famous Professor of Physics who, 40 years ago, especially studied these phenomena. But the medium says they have been told that "Nell" lived in Nürnberg, was born in 1656 and died 1713.

Five knocks are heard.

No. 2, Red Light Resumed.

The medium, in trance again makes graphic gestures, and holds her hands over the velvet, three taps are heard apparently on her chair, she suddenly draws back and makes little sounds of complaint like a dog whimpering. Sitter No. 1, the daughter, has been coughing badly, and disturbing conditions. She and her mother go out of room for a glass of water. In their absence much tapping, quite lively, and a feeling of psychic cold, is experienced. Apparently conditions are improved by absence of cougher. The absent sitters return, and three minutes after, medium starts up suddenly; apparently in trance, and passes back of sitter on her right, and moves round table and pauses behind No. 5. A brilliant flash of light is seen between her palms and she holds the other metal cigarette case, she makes gestures as if engraving it, and goes back to her seat, and comes out of her trance with a muttering phase. The velvet is suddenly switched away from aperture without anyone touching it; a light flickered round table from my back to right side of cabinet, but I saw only the end of its path.

The cigarette case on examination was found to have engraved on the outside the word "Nell."

The velvet moves at the edges as if being sucked into aperture. Sitter on my left says she sees fingers under edge nearest us, I did not see this. The position of Frau Silbert's hands is carefully noted and were in full view on table.

White Light, for 5 minutes and tambourine is heard to fall over.

No. 2, Red Light. Medium holds her hands together, and approaches them to ear of S. 6, who says she hears the ticking of a watch. Medium rises and moves round table to back of S. 4; opens her hands in full view, but there is nothing in them, stands back of me with hands stretched out, goes to my right for a yard and comes back to me holding my watch, makes engraving motions, over it but without touching it, and drops it gently on table in front of me. It is found on examination to be signed on back with "Nell."

Medium resumes her seat. The vanity box which is still under table suddenly comes into medium's hand between her and S. 6. Medium takes it and puts it back under table again (this was the case she could not hold in the early part of the sitting); she makes gestures of engraving, but with no success on object, as we found on subsequent examination.

White Light. S. 1 and 4 change places, S. 4 on left of medium feels tickling on leg.

Five knocks heard as if in cabinet.

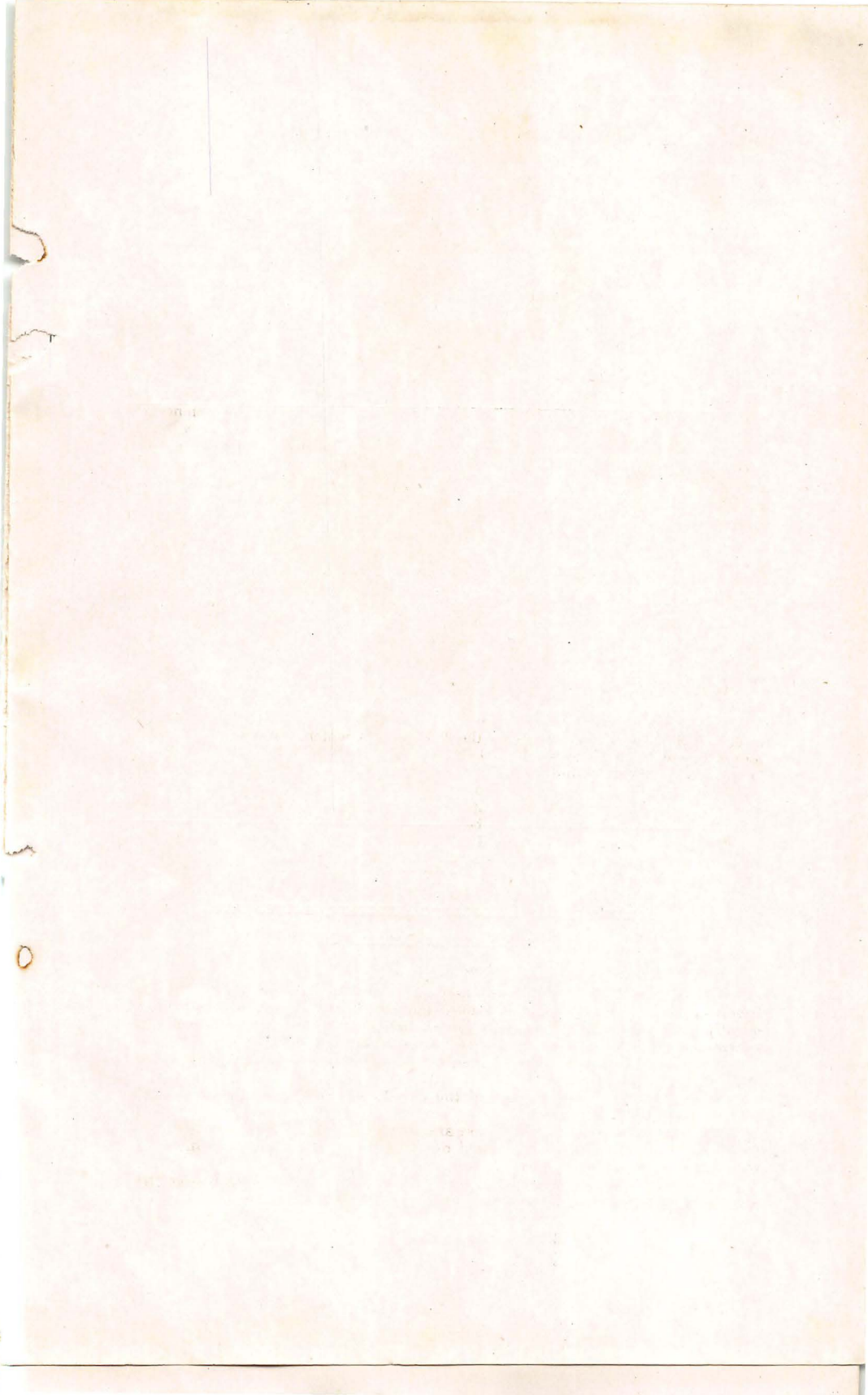
No. 2, Red Light. Continued tapping in cabinet for alphabet, and the following message in German is spelled out by means of raps. Frau Silbert silently counts and announces the letters indicated which are followed and taken down by another sitter and myself who understand German.

"Du bist einer der Auserwählten die berufen sind von uns, zeugnts zu geben: Erfüle die Mission."

Translation. "Thou art one of the chosen who are called by us to bear witness, carry out the mission."

Three knocks, a signal that sitters are to give "Nell" "Gott zum Gruss" for Good-bye. Taps all round to find out who the communication is intended for; they stop at myself.

The velvet is suddenly snatched up by the medium and turning it over the engraving tool is found on the underside.



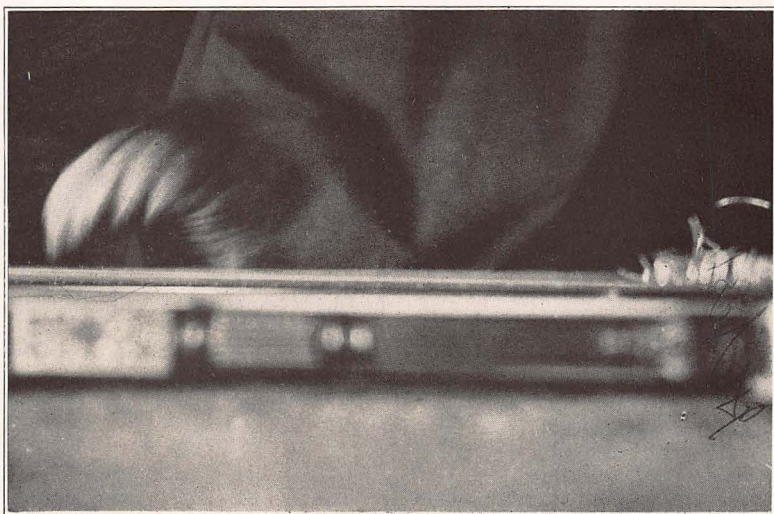


Fig. 1.

PHOTOGRAPH OF ECTOPLASTIC EXTRUSION, SECURED WITH
FRAU SILBERT IN OCTOBER 1923.



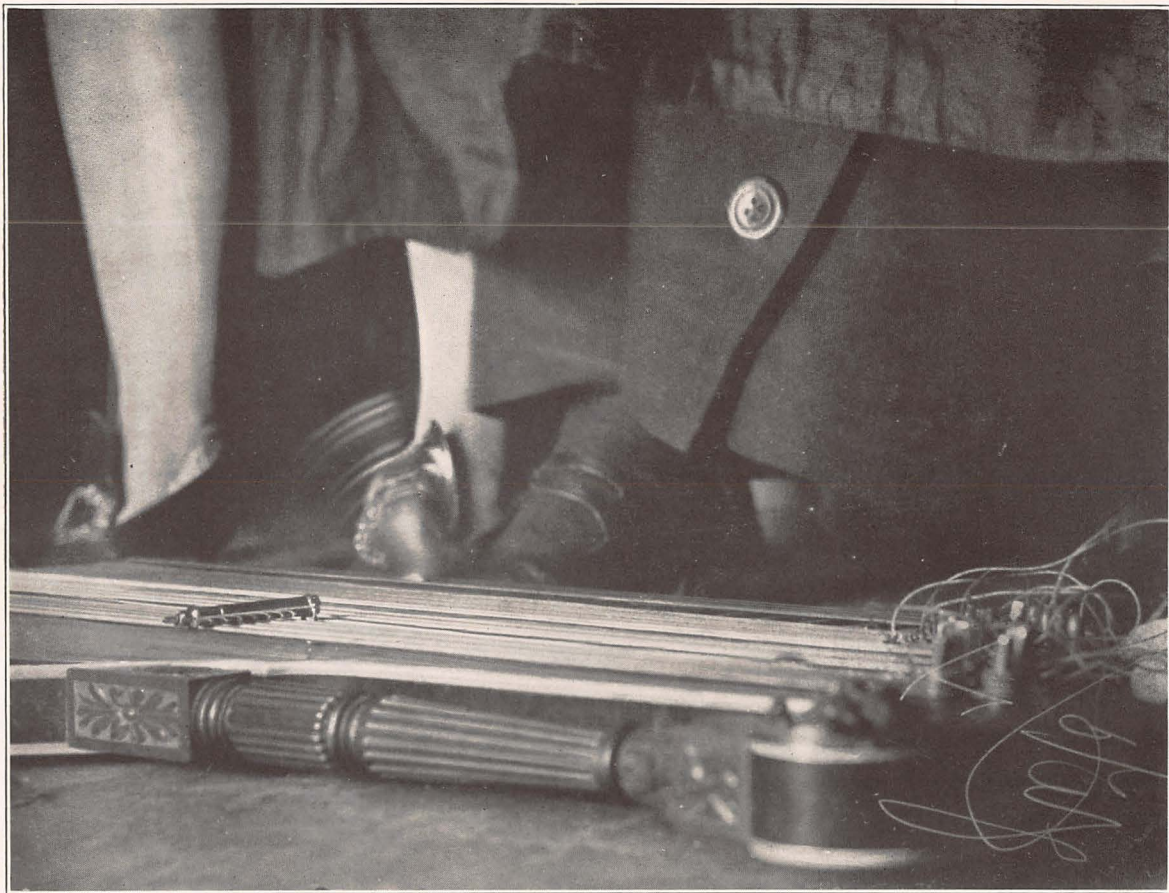


FIG 2. SILBERT ECTOPLASTIC EXTRUSION (lines seen between limbs of sitter on left controlling medium's foot),
PHOTOGRAPHED IN JANUARY, 1926.

Continuous tapping in middle of table apparently from underneath, and tambourine joins in in time with zither for about a minute.

S. 1 and 4 report frequent touchings.

S. 6 has her foot swung gently.

Three taps for good night all round and again 9 taps for me. Series of answering taps in different parts of the room, but not more than a yard or so from table, to knocks of very different kinds and varying numbers made by the sitters on the table top, also answering imitation of noise made by my rubbing top of pencil on table in rapid circles, a scratching on table top by a sitter's finger was answered by a similar sound apparently on underside of table top.

The séance closed at 5.40 p.m. This report is made from notes taken at the time by myself.

G. R. S. MEAD, December 23rd, 1925.

SOME HAPPENINGS RECORDED BY REV. C. DRAYTON THOMAS.

The Rev. Drayton Thomas made reports regarding several sittings with Frau Silbert at the College, which he and Mrs. St. Clair Stobart conducted during the visit. Mr. Thomas and Mrs. Stobart had sat with Frau Silbert on many occasions during former visits. Mr. Thomas mentions that the phenomena witnessed were much the same as on Frau Silbert's previous visits to the College, but came more slowly. In these reports the following items are noticeable:—

November 24th, 1925, 3.15 p.m.

Conditions of lighting and control as on other occasions. Nine sitters were present, including Mr. H. Dennis Bradley, and other well known investigators.

"A metal match-box placed under the table is found to be missing, when the white light is turned on at the first break in the sitting. At the second interval it was still missing."

"The sitting continued in No. 2 light and the medium made a sudden grab at the centre of the velvet covering and all see the missing match box in her hands; she seemed to be in trance."

"In white light, examination showed the letters 'Nel' scratched on the match-box. While some were examining these letters, a pocket knife which had been placed under the table at the beginning of the sitting with the other articles came up and touched Mr. Bradley's right elbow (he sat on the medium's left), and fell in the pocket of the medium's sports coat. Mr. B. reported that he had seen this white handled knife coming up between him and the medium and had first thought that it was a finger. Both he and the medium had hands on the table, meanwhile he controlled her left foot."

December 1st, 1925, at 3.15 p.m.

Ten sitters, among them being the Rev. Charles L. Tweedale, of Otley, Yorks.,

No. 2, *Red Light*. "The velvet covering the aperture in table was slightly raised in centre as if being pushed up. The medium stood up and in her hands was a metal tool case which had been placed beneath table; we could not say how it had come into her hands."

"Several sitters in succession placed their hands below the table and reported feeling something like a portion of a hand, but cold and unlike an ordinary hand: one says it feels like leather or rubber. Three sitters place their hands over the velvet and report that their hand was rubbed from below as with finger tips."

"A metal case from under table was placed in a sitter's hand on left of medium, medium's hands being above table at the time."

"Mrs. Stobart on medium's right, feels something on her knee, and finds a small case she had placed under the table."

"The medium in trance rises suddenly and in her hand is a necklace which had been placed under the table."

"A pen placed under the table is missing, medium goes in cabinet and comes out with pen in her hand. Many flashes of light."
December 15th, 3.15 p.m. Ten sitters.

"The raps responding to our greetings were from places at least four feet distant from each other, some apparently from different portions of under side of table, others from cabinet. Those from cabinet and table alternated with but a few seconds' interval between."

"Medium says something has been placed on her foot. We find that some black paper was wrapped round one foot. This was carbon paper which had been placed below table at start of sitting, and on which some articles were laid and these were moved slightly."

"One sitter reported that something was pressing his foot and turning it partly round, then a heavy pressure was put upon it."

"The Medium placed her hand on velvet and produced a watch which had been placed below table."

"A white wool ball, from below table suddenly appeared between medium's blouse and neck. Two sitters claimed to have observed its course upward beneath the blouse. Medium said she had seen it near her lap, about a minute before it appeared at her neck."

Mr. Drayton Thomas had taken the precaution at this séance to prepare several articles by dipping them in powder; small receptacles perforated and filled with powder were used, so that they might leave a trace when moved, and mark the retreat of the ectoplasmic extrusion. Very little success attended this experiment, none of these articles apparently being touched. The white wool ball which was handled had *not* been powdered. Mr. Thomas left this with me to powder and to try at another séance, and its subsequent history may interest readers.

How "Herr Nell" played with a ball.

On December 17th, when a few special sitters were present, including Mr. F. W. Warrick, and Mr. H. C. Scofield, who both subsequently assisted with the photographic experiments with Frau Silbert, the ball, well powdered, was placed with other things under the table.

Mrs. Vickers, a clairvoyant, sat on the medium's left during one portion of the sitting. Great play was made by the extrusion, on Mrs. Vickers instep, and on her leg next to the medium. Her toe was pushed up and down many times. Frau Silbert said that a medium placed too near her often seemed to draw and hold the psychic force instead of letting it go out for action, and Mrs. Vickers at her request, moved to another position in the circle. Just before she moved, the medium exclaimed that she saw the white ball coming up through the table aperture covered with velvet, (she has often claimed thus to see articles, apparently clairvoyantly, for they are seldom seen by anyone else; the sudden grab that she makes at the velvet seems to justify the claim, I have seen her sometimes genuinely distressed when she apparently missed something).

She then stated that the ball seemed to fall away. When Mrs. Vickers came to sit down in her new place and pointed out to the sitters where she had been touched so freely, we found her stocking on the instep thickly powdered, as if the ball had been well rubbed upon it. There was no powder on either of the medium's feet. The ball could be found nowhere, although everyone got up and careful examination was made. The underside of the velvet cloth over the aperture, however, showed a round white mark as if the ball had just touched it, confirming the medium's clairvoyance.

(The next day Mrs. Vickers informed me that on reaching home, some miles from the College, she found markings of the powder apparently from the ball, on her stocking up to her knee, quite thickly rubbed in.)

Inquiry from "Nell" as to where the ball was, elicited the reply that it would be found next day at the house of Mr. S. This prophecy was not fulfilled however, and it may be that the conditions were not good for a correct reply when the question was put, near the end of the sitting.

At a séance on December 21st, the medium said that for a moment she thought she saw the white ball, missing since the previous Friday, under the velvet. She made an attempt to catch it, but failed. Search was at once made under the table, but there was no sign of it, nor on the underside of the velvet.

January 15th, 1926.

Nothing more was seen of the ball till a séance held for photographic purposes, and one of the last before Frau Silbert left. We had spoken of the ball soon after we sat down, although it had not been mentioned for a while, saying "Nell" ought to return it before carrying his medium away, and several of us together repeated laughingly "Nell, bring back the white ball."

An exposure was made in darkness with the medium's hands and feet well controlled, and the bell under the table was rung loudly. When Mr. McKenzie got on the floor to shut the slide of the camera he found at his feet the little white ball missing since December 17th. It had no powder upon it and looked slightly soiled.

A white handled scriber which we always placed under the table for use in engraving the articles had been missing for some time, and I spoke of this, suggesting its return also. The medium was sitting, controlled by sitters, in a good red light, and three sitters saw it falling in a curious slanting direction about a foot above her head. It landed on the velvet over the aperture in the table.

Another scriber had been gone for several days, and we told "Nell" he had better finish the job and return that also.

Darkness was called for to take another photographic exposure, and the medium's hands and feet were again carefully controlled.

When the red light was put up again, the second scribe was found lying on top of the velvet, making three missing articles returned at this séance.

January 18th.—"In white light, the white ball which had been placed under table was seen by four sitters to fall as if from above, on to table. The medium was sitting close up to table with hands upon it. I did not notice this myself, as I was looking at my notes."

NEW EXPERIENCES WITH FRAU SILBERT.

Similar phenomena are repeated at many séances with Frau Silbert, but several new features were noted upon this visit.

(Unless where otherwise stated, the notes are from records made by myself at séances and written up the following day.)

I. Touch of Materialised Hand.

Almost at every séance at her request, one or more sitters were asked singly to hold one hand in one of the medium's from the opposite side of the table, while their other hands were held above the table. Together they were asked slowly to count one—two—three, and then quickly put their free hands under the table and grip. The idea was that in that rapid movement following the stillness of counting, a materialised hand or fingers would be felt to touch the back of the sitter's hand. Frau Silbert's feet were controlled during the operation by sitters on each side, and her hands were quite empty.

With some sitters this seemed successful, with others less so.

I experienced it myself in Frau Silbert's own home in Graz last year, and noted that the touch was always on the wrist of my blouse and not on my flesh.

A few instances from my notes regarding others' experiences may be of interest:—

December 6th. No. 2 Red Light.—"Mr. H., opposite medium, grips hands. Reports a touch on back of his hand as if two fingers were placed upon it; did not note temperature."

December 7th. (Reported by Miss A. C. Crosbie, note-taker). No. 2 Red Light.—"At the medium's request, one of the sitters seated almost opposite to her was asked to place his left hand on the table, and hold the medium's left hand on table top. His right hand was extended in the air, the medium doing likewise with her right hand. She then counted 'Ein, zwei, drei,' and at the third count, both the sitter and the medium suddenly clasped their free

right hands under the table, the left hands of both still holding each other's above the table. This was done with two sitters, and both reported that *another* hand was distinctly felt gripping or touching both the medium's and the sitters' clasped hands under the table. This extra hand was described as like a furry glove, by one, just like 'a big strong hand' by another."

The medium always showed great glee when this experiment was successful. Sometimes she would report a touch not felt by the sitter.

December 21st. No. 2 Red Light.—"Mr. B. was asked to try the 'one, two, three' experiment with the medium. He felt nothing on first trial, but on a second said it seemed as if an ordinary finger, not large, had touched the back of his hand."

January 7th.—"In white light, the medium wished to try the 'one, two, three' experiment, and did so with five different sitters. As a rule she will not do it with more than two, or at most three. They all declared they felt something touch them, and it was described by all on this occasion as like a large finger and cold."

January 11th.—"Three people tried to get the 'one, two, three' touch under table while holding the medium's hand, all reported the touch as cold. Just after this Mr. S. placed his hand gently under the velvet on aperture, and a cigarette case was immediately put in his hand, and as he received it he felt the touch of what seemed a coldish finger, as he had felt a few minutes before in the 'one, two, three' experiment."

II. Sounds Under Séance Table Synchronise with Medium's Actions Above Table.

The second new feature consisted in the medium's making dumb show over table, and a corresponding sound being heard below, as if a line of force through her body connected the two.

Frau Silbert's dumb show by her hands, of articles which are to be handled psychically, is well known, and is usually followed by the disappearance of corresponding articles from under the table. But there is no corresponding *sound* at the moment as in the following cases where the articles were moved, but did not disappear.

January 4th.—A "Daily News" representative was present, and reported the séance in the "Daily News" of January 6th.

On this occasion a small hand-bell and other articles were placed under the table. In *white* light the medium made dumb show of ringing a bell over the table. The bell was heard by all ringing under the table synchronising with the particular movements of her hand. The No. 2 red light was then used, and the medium again made motion of ringing bell first at one end of the table and then at the other, the rings under the table exactly responded in sound

and position to her movements; one shake of the hand as if she held a bell by the handle, produced one ring, and so on. She then made the motion of throwing the bell away, and the bell fell in the direction she indicated, hitting my own and another sitter's feet opposite the medium.

January 14th. No. 2 Red Light.—“The medium rang bell in dumb show over table, and from below we heard a corresponding ring from the bell lying on the floor, exactly corresponding to the action. The medium's feet were verified as controlled by sitters on each side during this action.

January 17th.—Medium made dumb show of handling a card case, judging by the shape which her hands took, and made motion of throwing it away. An object was heard to fall at feet of a sitter, at that very moment.

Later the card case was found on this spot. This was the first time the motion of throwing away an object synchronised with the physical sound of the fall of the object, unless in the case of the bell reported above.

III. Herr “Nell” Makes Play with Séance Room Lights.

Exactly over the College room table is an electric pendant with a centre light and three others. Into the centre bracket was fixed the adjustable red light, which was manipulated in three degrees by means of a cord arranged on a pulley, and which could be handled at the table, without moving.

At a photographic experiment on January 5th, 1926, it was suggested that “Nell,” who seemed so ready to touch and handle, might be able to grip the cords and adjust lights if they were lengthened and placed in the aperture of the table.

This was at once done, and small weights were put on the ends to grip by. Mrs. K. and myself carefully controlled Frau Silbert's hands and feet, one each.

No. 2 Red Light.—The cords were no sooner lowered in the aperture than they began to tremble, reminding one of the action of a line when a fish is nibbling. Soon control seemed to be gained, and the light turned off and on at various degrees. It seemed slightly more difficult for the power manipulating the cords to turn the light on than off, though our own use of the cords did not show that one was harder to pull than the other.

“Nell” was apparently ready for any new game proposed, and on many occasions after this, the same thing happened when the cords were placed in the aperture. Due foot and hand control *was always exercised*, and no advantage was ever taken of momentary darkness to produce any other phenomena.

The following from my notes give some instances of this manipulation :—

January 7th. No. 2 Red Light.—At end of sitting the cords from the red lamp over table were placed under the velvet over aperture, and a sudden pull made darkness. Then four raps were given for the light to be put on, as if the intelligence could not accomplish this. It was found that the velvet had fallen through the aperture on to the floor, probably by reason of sudden jerk given to the cord.

January 8th.—A photographic sitting with poor results. The cords of red lamp No. 2 Light were put under velvet, and they were touched and pulled slightly, but not sufficient to alter the light.

(Note that the psychic power seemed very low.)

January 11th. No. 3 Red Light.—Cords of red lamp turned low were put in aperture, and rapping was heard on underside of table, as if made with a box. Medium fully controlled. The cord was suddenly jerked and the velvet at edge away from medium, ruffled by the action of cord, and the fullest strength of red light appeared in the lamp; so strong was the pull that the whole chandelier dangled.

January 14th. No. 2 Red Light.—Almost at close of séance knockings heard in cabinet. The velvet cloth is pulled away, and several say they see part of a hand, which disappeared instantaneously. The cords of red lamp are put under velvet, and are at once pulled, producing brightest red light. Then another pull and darkness. In this, a bright flash of light is seen from the medium, whose hands and feet are controlled, and who starts violently: then immediately full red light again, by "Nell's" manipulation of cord.

January 18th.—A good séance.

I had just told the sitters of "Nell's" manipulation of the lamp cords, and said we might try it at close of séance. I had no thought of putting them in aperture until the end, and they lay before us on the table on furthest side from medium in No. 1 red light. Suddenly the red light went out, and to the observation of all, the cords had not apparently moved. It was put on and off at my request by "Nell" three times; not a movement of the cords was noticed, although we were all bent on observing this; the medium was controlled hands and feet. I made strict enquiries in the house, and though many lights were on, I could not find that any other light had been affected that evening. The switch was at the other side of the room and the door was locked as usual. Later in same séance, the cords were put in the table aperture, and "Nell" was asked to manipulate them from below. No. 1 red light in lamp. The response seemed slow, and I had an impulse to rise in my seat opposite medium and place my right hand near cords about a foot below lamp, but without touching.

My hand was at an approximate distance of 2 inches. The cords suddenly shook as if to say, "I can do it." I tried this experiment several times, and each time my hand approached, the cords shook; but no alteration in light occurred.

At close of séance we tried again, with No. 2 red light in lamp, cords in aperture, and the brightest light at once resulted and then was extinguished as quickly. I turned it up to No. 2 again, and immediately it was put on at full strength. I encircled the cord with both my hands, near the bracket, without touching, and the light went suddenly out.

Frau Silbert returned to Graz shortly after this, and a week after her departure Mrs. Barkel, a College trance medium, was one day giving a sitting in the séance room. The table used at Frau Silbert's séances was removed, and two chairs occupied by medium and sitter, just under the red lamp, which was kept at No. 2 light. The sitters and medium at the close of the séance reported that the light, which had been at No. 2 strength, had been raised and lowered a number of times. At a class for development following this on the same day a similar report was made.

In the beginning of May, a similar happening took place with this same lamp, for no apparent normal reason, again, when Mrs. Barkel was engaged with a sitter, a third instance happened during a class in June. Does Herr Nell occasionally visit the College and enjoy a game?

COLD BREEZES AND SHIVERS EXPERIENCED BY SITTERS AT SÉANCES, AN INDICATION OF PSYCHIC ACTIVITY.

At many of Frau Silbert's séances extreme coldness up to the knees was experienced by sitters. I became extremely susceptible to this, as I was so frequently present, and could tell at once when I felt it that some psychic activity was on the way. I began to associate it particularly with the psychic process which accompanied the movement or removal of the objects from under the table, so often was this verified on subsequent examination. Many other sitters independently reported this chilliness, but only being present occasionally their feelings and the co-relative psychic action could not be noted so exactly.

A thermometer was used under the table on many occasions when this excessive coldness was noticed, but no change was registered in the temperature of the room, and the effect must be put down to an excessive radiation of force from some sitters rather than to a reduction in general temperature. Frau Silbert's physical phenomena are not of the heavy variety but rather consist in the extremely delicate handling of small objects. When heavy phenomena take place differences in temperature have been frequently noted as in "Stella C." and other experiments.

Some instances of this chilliness, coldness, and its association with disappearance of objects, may be given from notes made at the time at various séances.

November 30th. No. 2 Light.

Many sitters noticed extreme coldness under table at a given moment. Just following this, touchings on sitter at medium's right, made her look down between herself and Frau Silbert, and a luminous watch which at the beginning of séance was on the floor under the table seemed to rise between her and the medium. Frau Silbert stretched out her hand and the watch was placed in it.

The same sitter had previously reported something lying on her left foot which lay against the medium's right foot, and described it as soft, and yet with a good weight, almost like a mouse; it seemed to move, and then she had a touch like a soft muzzle pressing on the calf of her leg.

December 6th. No. 2 Light.

Cold breezes felt under table and over sitter's hands. An examination of the articles under table showed that a man's silver watch had been removed.

Later in the séance the same cold condition was noted by several sitters, and examination showed a lady's wrist watch had been taken. The first watch was returned by the medium, who grabbed the velvet over aperture and turning up the underside revealed the man's watch. The second watch was later given into the medium's hand from under the table.

December 10th.

Rather a large circle, and things very slow. I made a note of extreme cold up to the knees, and curious spinal shudders, at nine different times during this séance. Results were not very good, but "Nell" tapped out a characteristic message in German. "Not one hour spent with us is lost," a reference perhaps to the length of the sitting—nearly 3 hours—and that some sitters had to go.

A curious incident happened at this séance, which may be reported here. One sitter who much regretted having to leave before the finish, had asked several times if "Nell" could not show some lights. She had placed a string of beads under the table, and left these when she went. I and others verified they were there, as I bent down to give them to her, while the white light was on. She and another sitter left, the others keeping their places. No. 2 Red Light was resumed, and in less than a minute the medium rose from her chair, turned her back to us, facing the cabinet, and in a dramatic way threw her hands up, holding between them this very string of beads. She whirled them round and round, and five or six big flashes of light accompanied the action. She turned to the circle again, there was another flash,

all apparently emanating from her hands, and the beads dropped on the table.

Frau Silbert has often stated that phenomena are best when she feels warm and comfortable and the sitters feel cold; so when sitters report the cold breezes and shivers, she feels assured that something is likely to happen.

Friday January 1st, 1926. A photographic sitting.

Cold effects noticed by me, especially in spine. Medium made a dumb show of beads; some beads and a bell had been placed under table, and in a few minutes beads and bell were found between sitter on medium's right, and the medium. This sitter had previously reported many touches on her left limb and that she felt the bell laid upon her foot.

The sitters controlling medium were changed, and bell and beads replaced under table. Extreme cold noticed again.

The sitter on medium's left felt a net which had been placed between medium and table pulled tight across her knees: the sound of beads heard as if being moved.

Extreme cold again: the net which had been relaxed, was drawn again tightly across left hand sitter's knees, who also reported a touch like a hand on her instep, and her foot was pushed up and down by the toe. On examination the beads were again gone from their position, and laid between the two feet of the left hand sitter.

Extreme cold again, and an attempt made to lift the bell between Mr. McKenzie, on medium's right, and the medium; Mr. McKenzie could feel it on his left leg. Medium said she felt bell coming up by her, and put her hand out for it, but missed it, and it was heard to drop. It was then rung again and thrown down judging by the sound.

Friday January 8th. A photographic sitting.

I felt great cold and drawing upon me all through the sitting, but there was very little result, photographically or otherwise. Frau Silbert and her son had been to tea that same afternoon with two highly mediumistic people, and reported that immediately she entered their room, loud knockings were heard, much louder than she usually receives. "Nell," on being questioned, seemed to think this had weakened the force necessary for photography. The medium did not seem inclined to go into trance at all, which we have noticed is usually necessary for particular manifestations.

January 14th, 1926. A general sitting.

No. 2, Red Light. A great deal of coldness felt under table by several sitters followed by bell being rung for some time in time with zither. Medium says she feels the bell resting against her foot, while it rings. The velvet it clutched from below and dragged under table. Velvet is replaced by me.

Cold again noticed, and bell again rung a great deal. Velvet clutched again.

January 18th, 1926. A general sitting.

No. 2, *Red Light*. Séance began.—A strong wind is felt all round on hands of sitters, though no movement of any kind has been made by anyone.

Bell is heard to ring under table, and on examination, a tin box under table was found to have been moved nearer medium.

Sitter on medium's left, felt a cold touch on his right hand on table. Later, very cold feeling under table noticed by several, and on examination it was found that two articles had been moved from positions and one placed between medium and sitter on left, and the other between medium and sitter on right.

BREAKAGE OF GLASS AT SOME SÉANCES.

Probably at each séance with Frau Silbert one or more watches were placed under the table by sitters, and during her two previous visits I do not remember any damage resulting to one, nor a watch glass being broken.

The gold bracelet attached to one watch was, I remember, twisted on one occasion, but we came to the conclusion that this might have been done accidentally by the foot of a sitter.

On this visit, on repeated occasions, the glass of watches placed under the table, and handled by the psychic force, was cracked or smashed. This was very noticeable during the first few weeks, and Frau Silbert was quite anxious about it, saying that it had never happened before.

The following instances are illustrative of these happenings:—

December 3rd.—A great fog. Sitting slow and poor in results. Medium complained that everything seemed *just there*, but she could not get hold of it. Instead of the usual raps for greetings to sitters, by "Nell," the bell laid under the table was rung to each greeting from sitters. The medium did not like this, she prefers before beginning a séance to have the response of three raps to each sitter's greeting.

Extreme cold was noticed below table, and on examination of articles at an interval a wrist watch was found to be gone. Time went on, and though two other articles were returned, there was no sign of the watch, though we asked repeatedly for its return, and the sitter had to leave without it. "Nell" assured us by raps that it was all right, but the answers were not as clear as usual.

I looked everywhere on floor and cabinet at close of séance, but found nothing.

The next morning, the maid on cleaning the room, found the

watch lying under the séance table, minus the glass. On examining the spot many pieces of fine glass were found where it was said to have been picked up. There is no verification that this was returned psychically, the séance room door was not locked, but I have never known anything of this sort happen before.

Séance, December 6th.—Two wrist watches were placed under table with other articles. At an interval, and after extreme cold had been noticed by sitters, one of the wrist watches was found to be gone. Mr. McKenzie, who was present, left the room to sharpen the scribe which it is believed is sometimes used to engrave "Nell." On the sitting being resumed in No. 2 Red Light, Mrs. S., whose watch it was, and who sat nearly opposite the medium, felt something touch her leg, and on looking down, saw her watch lying close to her own foot, an attempt to bring it to her or the medium having apparently failed. The medium asked that it might be replaced under the table.

White Light.—A second interval and examination of articles showed the wrist watch gone again, and also a small metal ash tray, which at the previous interval was noted rather close to the medium's feet.

No 2 Red Light.—The medium in light trance stood up and held out her hands over table, and into them, without anyone being able to say they actually saw it come, came a wrist watch, which Mrs. S. recognised as hers by the strap. Holding the watch in her hands, the medium got up and walked behind the sitters round the table and stood just behind where I sat opposite the medium's chair; the other sitters watching her hands closely, saw the ash tray suddenly shine in them. She placed the watch in it, and laid both on table, and made the motion of writing over them. On examination both watch and tray were inscribed "Nell," but the metal of the watch was dented and *the glass cracked*, as if heavy pressure had been put upon it when writing, and as if the instrument used had been blunt. The ash tray, of soft metal too, was inscribed as if with a sharper instrument. As the scribe was sharpened between the disappearance of the watch and the ash tray, it looks as if on this occasion it was the instrument used. At other times the medium's brooch has suddenly fallen from her breast, for no apparent reason, and its pin is probably made use of.

Later in the séance the medium in trance made dumb show of throwing away a watch and then retreated into cabinet and remained there quite still in full view for some minutes. When she came out she seemed disturbed and made motions as if sweeping something from the table. We surmised that a watch glass had been broken.

An interval. White light.

Looking under table, the other wrist watch belonging to Mrs. B. had gone. No attempt was made to return it, and after the sitting it was found on the floor near the medium's chair, *with the glass broken*. Pieces of fine broken glass were found under the medium's chair. This coincided with medium's motions and disturbance recorded above.

Séance, December 17th.—Many articles placed under table, including a wrist watch with a black strap.

No. 2 Red Light.—Almost at once greetings were given, and medium made a dumb show of holding watch in her hand.

White Light.—An interval. Examination under table showed that the wrist watch had been removed.

Red Light.—The medium rose and turned towards cabinet. A blue flash was seen in cabinet by all, and several sitters caught a glimpse of something glittering in medium's hands which she held upward. A yellow flash followed seemingly from her hands. The medium turned and took Miss T. on her left into cabinet with her, the curtains were half open. Several more flashes seen. Miss T. within cabinet said the flashes seemed to be in upper left-hand corner of cabinet. Medium still held Miss T.'s hands in both her own, and was whispering in German, as if directing her to something. Another flash, seemingly from the medium's hands, and Miss T. found her watch in Frau Silbert's hands as she still held them. *The glass of watch was found to be cracked* in many directions. When Miss T. came out of cabinet her hands were extremely cold, as I verified, although previously she said they had been comfortably warm. She did not experience the cold on any other part of her body. Sitters continued to put watches under table at many séances, but no further cracks or breakages were reported.

Frau Silbert states that when an article is returned in her hands it has no engraving, and as she holds it—she often does so for a few minutes after receiving it—she suddenly feels something has been done to it that moment, and on examination finds it engraved. It was not, however, possible to make a close observation of such a case, although we have noticed an article retaken for such a purpose and returned with markings upon it.

A SÉANCE WITH A CONJURER PRESENT.

Great interest was excited in the Press by the news that Captain Clive Maskelyne, the famous conjurer of St. George's Hall, was to sit with Frau Silbert at the College.

The request was made by Mr. C. Palmer, the London Correspondent of "The Daily News," who had been deeply interested in a séance with Frau Silbert, and was at the time

making a series of reports on mediumistic work in the "Daily News."

The séance was reported the following day, and Captain Maskelyne and Professor A. M. Low, wrote upon the matter, both holding that there was not adequate control of the medium, and that the results could have been accomplished by trickery, but that they failed to detect how they were obtained. The visitor's knew very little at first hand of psychic matters, and they were only there on the one occasion in the capacity of observers, and not to lay down rules for the conduct of a séance.

They had previously thoroughly examined the séance room, and cabinet.

It may interest readers to read the College notes, made at the time.

Sitting on Sunday Evening, January 17th, 1926, 8 p.m.--
11.30 p.m.

Notes taken by Mrs. McKenzie.

Present:—Mr. C. Palmer (of "Daily News"), Captain Clive Maskelyne, and Professor A. M. Low, Mr. H. C. Scofield, Mrs. St. Clair Stobart, Miss Eissner, Mr. and Mrs. McKenzie, Mrs. J., U.S.A. a visitor, Dr. and Miss M.

Before the medium entered the room the following articles were placed under the table:—

Bell, 2 scribes, card case, gentleman's gold watch, lady's wrist watch, a small metal cap, a string of beads, a plain box of matches, a thermograph.

A rough diagram of the positions of these was made by Professor Low, and used for comparison at various intervals during the séance.

White Light. The sitting began with Captain Maskelyne on medium's left, and Mrs. J. on right. No raps in greeting could be got from "Nell," and medium was unhappy about this.

No. 2, Red Light. A slight touch reported by Capt. Maskelyne on his heel, though he was controlling medium's foot. Things slow.

Interval. White Light. Examination shows that a lady's watch has been moved nearer to Dr. M., opposite medium, Mrs. Stobart and Mr. Scofield placed on left and right of medium, respectively, to endeavour to warm things up.

No. 2, Red Light. Mr. Scofield reports coldness, and pulling of trouser leg as if by fingers.

Greetings at last by raps from "Nell," and ringing of bell under table. Both controllers declare medium's feet are held by theirs.

More touchings reported by sitters on both sides of medium.

Interval. White Light. Examination shows that bell had apparently been slightly moved. Nothing else touched.

No. 2, Red Light. 1-2-3 experiment tried, and several feel a slight touch on hand.

Medium made dumb show of what we took to be the card case, and motion of throwing away, and an object is heard to fall at feet of a sitter. *First time this synchronization has been noticed with anything but the bell.*

Some ringing of the bell under table. Icy cold felt by several sitters. Good control reported.

Interval. White Light. Examination shows that every article on floor has been slightly moved. Large watch moved nearer medium. Card case found thrown out between two sitters, where something was heard to fall after dumb show.

No. 2, Red Light. Professor Low moves to medium's right, felt slight touches on his left limb; he reports he is controlling her foot.

Flash of light seen in cabinet, probably from medium's feet. Bell heard to ring under table.

The medium in trance makes dumb show of ringing. Sound of bell corresponding with medium's action heard under table at same moment. A flash of light seen. Something seen to fall on floor near the medium, apparently the scribe picked up here later.

Bell seems to be thrown under table towards Capt. Maskelyne, seated opposite medium.

Interval. White Light. Examination shows lady's watch drawn nearer medium, and Dr. M.'s large watch has disappeared. Bell is found at Capt. Maskelyne's feet. Mr. McKenzie sits on medium's right in an attempt to improve matters.

No. 2, Red Light. Knockings under table and in cabinet.

Bell rung. Cords put in aperture, and the light is suddenly put out for a second, by a pull from an invisible force. Foot control of medium all right.

I turned lights up at once, medium makes dumb show with scribe, and in a little made a dab at Mr. McKenzie's shoulder, and the scribe was found stuck on his coat. But this result took place so close to the medium, that it was difficult for new sitters to believe that it happened psychically.

Medium makes dumb show of watch.

Interval. White Light. Examination shows wrist watch has gone from under table.

No. 2, Red Light. Medium grabbed velvet, and on turning the underside up, the small watch was found.

Medium kept fumbling round her neck with hands, apparently in trance, and the large watch belonging to Dr. M. was found in her hands as if it had been caught somewhere in her neck.

Sitters decide to close sitting. Good knockings heard in cabinet, but when Capt. Maskelyne and Professor Low left the table to listen to them, the raps stopped. As they turned back to table they began again. As they turned to cabinet, they stopped again. Most tantalising.

This was admittedly a very poor séance compared with many. Both visitors complained that things always happened the moment their attention was momentarily distracted, and that this was evidently when the trick was done. They will not allow that close mental analytical attention, and the concentrated gaze of the eye, has been proved time and again with Frau Silbert and other mediums to have the power of breaking up these delicate manifestations, even when the medium is used to her sitters. One must learn to look without looking, to employ a paradox. Professor Low in his report says "Thought is electrical": exactly; and on nothing does it act so instantaneously as upon psychophysical manifestations.

As the last word for the moment is with us, I cannot do better than quote from the "Daily News" correspondent's report.

"The opinion he (Capt. Maskelyne), formed, was that there was no evidence of the phenomena being due to anything but trickery.

"The fact remains however that he failed to detect any trickery. Frau Silbert, a little grey haired Austrian woman of about 50, had at any rate the satisfaction of *completely baffling the most famous*

magician in this country, although there was only the width of a table about 4-ft. between them."

The italics are the correspondent's.

EFFECT OF SITTERS UPON PHENOMENA.

In Col. Ocholowcz's study of Kluski (see article in present issue), he discusses the influence of the sitters upon the character of the phenomena at various séances. Direct influence upon the medium starts while he is in the passive condition just before the séance begins, by the expressed desires of the sitters. The phenomena will largely assume the character they have wished. Indirectly also during the séance they can encourage or dissuade certain classes of phenomena.

It is an interesting study, and no examination of mediumship can be made without taking the sitters into account as well as the medium. It is demonstrated daily at the College in the reactions of individuals and of groups of sitters to mental mediums, and if opportunities are less frequent to note the results of such reactions in physical phenomena, there are enough at any rate to make a short study in Frau Silbert's case.

It is perfectly clear, for instance, that when Frau Silbert is particularly attracted to anyone in the circle, or wishes to please anyone, *that* sitter will be singled out for some particular favour from Herr "Nell." Is this the medium's mind influencing the spirit helper to give this attention, or is it only the psychic extension of the medium's interest or affection, expressed through her etheric powers? It is probably both. Any helper so close to his medium as "Nell" is, must necessarily be constrained to gratify the emotions of the medium. A certain amount of phenomena may be produced by the outgoing of the medium's psychic force in an emotion of pleasure or annoyance, which at other times is held and regulated by other intelligences.

When Frau Silbert was happy and well and pleased with her sitters and the attention they gave her, nothing was a trouble in phenomena. If she was not interested in anyone, and no such stimulus was provided, then the séance was flat and uninteresting. I remember on one occasion a sitter being present for the first time whom Frau Silbert liked very much. After a long and good séance, this lady remained with a friend to speak to Frau Silbert, they sat round a small tea-table. Immediately the touchings and pattings and rappings commenced again with far greater force than at the séance, the spirit hands were touched freely by the sitters' hands in good white light, and generally it seemed as if "Nell" was only beginning his evening, instead of finishing. They called to me to come and share in the experience, which was quite remarkable.

One excellent piece of advice for each sitter is, "Do your best to make your medium *happy* if you wish for good results. Make her smile and laugh if possible, let her know that you have been looking forward to meet her, that you have heard of their good work from others, and know you are going to have a good séance, etc." In that atmosphere, if you can make it a genuine one, the medium's "soul" will flow out to you, and the miracle will happen. It is the only road to success in mediumship.

On one occasion, a sitter was present, whom Frau Silbert said was highly mediumistic. She declared she knew it by the white mist she saw around him. I rarely have heard her make such a statement. When he sat at the séance table, she felt he "held" her psychic force in some way from being used freely. He suggested he should leave the table, and remain outside the circle, and did so, leaving his empty chair at the table. Almost immediately the bell, placed about a foot in front of the medium on the floor was thrown out with force beyond the circle, towards this man, striking another sitter's leg in its passage. The bell was put back under the table; and four times an exactly similar action was performed, with equal violence. Once the man saw the bell coming towards him with force. The medium's hands were in full view, and her feet carefully controlled. She said that it was an indication of the psychic force this man possessed, and which Herr "Nell" could use. Frau Silbert herself however, always dislikes violent manifestations.

Some Curious Happenings at Séances.

A MATCH STRUCK UNDER THE SÉANCE TABLE.

On January 4th a "Daily News" Correspondent was present at a séance, and placed among the articles under the table a plain box of non-safety matches. At an interval in the séance it was noticed that the match-box had disappeared. On resuming the séance a sudden light accompanied by a slight sound and smell of burning was noticed. Looking under the table a match was seen lying on the carpet still burning and the match-box lay at a little distance. The correspondent stated that only one match had been previously taken from the box, so it must have been opened, one extracted and the match struck. The match picked up from the floor was similar to those in the box and was in two pieces. As Frau Silbert's hands are in view, how was the match struck, and was it done as a response perhaps to some thought in the sitter's mind when he placed it on the floor?

THE INVISIBLE PENDANT.

January 11th.—During an interval of white light, a pendant with ribbon attached placed under the table, was caught in the medium's hands a few inches above the table. She made quick twisting

movements with her hands, as if she saw it before it was visible and was trying to catch it, but no sitters could say they actually saw it fall into her hands. It was "just there" when it came into their view.

At this same séance a large man's watch which had been put under the table was returned in the medium's hands, but to the disappointment of the sitter was not engraved. The medium wished to gratify the sitter, and asked that the watch should be replaced under the table. This was done without the medium having any idea of its position. Within two minutes of observation it was in the medium's hands resting on the table and engraved clearly "Nell." How? Two bright flashes of light were noticed near the medium at the moment of the return of the watch into her hands.

At the last interval of this séance, it was noticed that a cigarette case still lay on the floor at the medium's right about 6 inches from her foot, and we wondered if it would be brought up before the séance finished.

No. 2 Red Light was resumed, and Miss Eissner said jokingly in German, "I wonder where 'Nell' keeps all the things when they disappear?" The medium had fallen into a light trance; she put her right hand in her bosom and drew forth the cigarette case, saying in German, "This is where I keep them." She made a dumb show of engraving it as if she held the scriber over it at a distance of several inches. On examination it was found to be engraved. Only on one or two occasions has anything been produced from the medium's body in this way. On one occasion in her home in Graz, unknown to her I placed a small scissors on the floor, and in a few minutes she placed her hand in her bosom and drew them forth, complaining of the pricking.

Still the séance would not finish; a man's watch lay on the floor. I asked its owner to place his hand just under the velvet over aperture and asked "Nell" to try to give Mr. B. his watch. In a few seconds the watch from below touched his hand, and as he tried to hold it, it was pulled away from him, he just managed to clutch it quickly, however, and laid it on the table before us, but it was not engraved, a disappointment to its owner.

"Nell" still refused to close. Rapped "No" repeatedly. The medium slightly entranced took Mr. B.'s watch from him and went into cabinet. She stood in the opening clearly in view, and held the watch up. Everyone saw her write on it as with a short piece of something, and we heard the sound of the writing on the metal. A spark of light was seen by her hands. She brought the watch back to the table, and we found it engraved "Nell," which looked very much as when the same thing is done without the medium having touched it.

I have never on any occasion seen this happen before with the engraving. It may be that the psychic force was too weak to act

beyond the medium's body, but still acted within her, and used her physical hand to write on this occasion. This is a well-known aspect of physical mediumship when the power is weak and may be done quite unconsciously by the medium.

AN INFORMAL SÉANCE WITH FRAU SILBERT AT A PRIVATE HOUSE IN LONDON.

Four of the sitters concerned in the following report are College Members, and having had excellent results with Frau Silbert at the College, had offered her and her son very kind hospitality, which she wished to accept. I consider that this group provides good conditions for psychic experiments. Miss B. T. is herself mediumistic. Her observation of a white mist about Frau Silbert's hands, and the subsequent appearance of the thermometer case, may have been seen by her clairvoyantly, as no one else reports it, but it bears out other observations particularly on previous visits of Frau Silbert when the flash of articles was seen in her hands and yet nothing was found there, or when the tick of the watch was heard as she held it to the ear of a sitter, and yet no watch was found in her hands.

In a report of Poltergeist phenomena, (see *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*. October, 1925) Mr. McKenzie mentions how an earthenware tile apparently moved psychically, fell on a stone floor, as softly as if it had been gently carried, and postulates that it may have been etherically protected in some way, so on occasions with Frau Silbert the articles may be so protected, or may be carried to her by a hand invisible to the eye, which the clairvoyant may see as a white mist.

Another instance bearing somewhat on above, I take from notes of a séance on Sunday, November 22nd.

Red Light No. 2. Half way through, a slight sound was heard at the table aperture over which a zinc sliding cover was placed on this occasion. It moved slightly to sound and sight. Frau Silbert whose hands rested on the table, stretched them out over the aperture, and in her hands lay a wrist watch previously placed on the floor. Half entranced she handed it to the lady to whom it belonged. Immediately after, a gentleman's heavy silver watch previously put on the floor, lay in her hands, which had apparently remained before us on the table. She stood up, threw up her hands with a gesture, and the watch seemed to disappear. Examination under table showed nothing. About 10 minutes later a slight sound was heard behind the medium, and the sitter on her right thought she had dropped a hair pin, and said so. At this close of the sitting we found the watch behind the medium's chair, at the entrance to the cabinet, but no hair pin could be found.

It was a very heavy watch, and would have made quite a thud in the ordinary way, but the very slight noise it made when falling

showed that it was probably being *carried* by some agency, when the power failed.

I have noticed repeatedly that when the force drops an article, or the medium partly gets it and then loses it, a second attempt is seldom made to bring it back psychically. It may be that some connecting force such as a psychometrist feels in certain articles, is weak in such cases, or is not agreeable in some way, and the intelligences at work do not feel it is worth while making a second attempt. On the other hand, certain articles will be handled over and over again, as if something in connection with them makes it easy and pleasant to seize them or to let them go.

I am much obliged to Mrs. M. for her careful report of the following interesting happenings.

" Dear Mrs. McKenzie,

" As requested by you, I will write as briefly as possible an account of the informal sitting we had after Frau Silbert and her son dined with us on Saturday, December 19th, 1925.

" During the afternoon I 'phoned Miss B. T. asking her to join us at dinner. This she promised to do, but said she would have to leave about 9 or 10 p.m.

" During the conversation at dinner, we all heard a few raps. After dinner we walked round to Miss B. T.'s house—only a very short distance away. During the walk there were flashes of light coming from below Frau Silbert's knees and these also seemed to be about Miss B. T. I was walking between the two, and we all three saw the flashes.

" Mrs. B. T. on learning that we were coming, sent a message to her sister, Miss N., asking her to come and join us.

" Miss N. talks German, and was helpful, she has however, never had anything to do with psychic matters, but was interested in the subject. Mrs. T. knew that she had a red electric bulb in her house, and asked her to bring that along.

" After greetings and a little conversation, we sat at a table in the Library, the red lamp being placed in centre light. The following articles were placed under the table :—

Chain Purse.
Silver Bell.
2 Watches.
Safety Razor case.
Thermometer case.
Round enamelled box.
Gold wedding ring.

" Those present were Frau Silbert and her son, Mrs. B. T., Miss B. T., Miss N., Dr. M., and myself.

" We had hardly settled down, using white light, when Frau Silbert, with both hands on the table turned and looked at me, then to her hands, in which was the top of the Doctor's thermometer case—the gold ring was returned in the same way into her hands immediately after. Then came the request for red light. Rapping started, and the following was spelled out :—

DIESESTUNDESEIEUCHZUMSEGEN.

(Diese stunde sei euch zum Segen.)

(Trans. : This hour is your blessing.)

" Dr. M., who sat opposite, got heavy touchings, and the bell fell heavily on his foot, (leaving a mark, we found afterwards).

"At this juncture he put his hand under the table and asked 'Nell' to kindly shake hands with him, when he was softly pressed on the palm of his hand.

"Miss B. T. then shook hands with Frau Silbert under the table, and was touched by the third hand. By this time we had music going on from the gramophone, which was on a table near the window. The bell then rang, and kept time with the music. We resumed conversation, and at Herr Silbert's suggestion we put all lights out, only having the fire light. I noticed Frau Silbert go into trance—only for a short time. She stood up and with outstretched hands and from the air, in a blue flash and with a noise came the chain purse, with 'Nell' engraved on it. No scribe had been placed on the floor for engraving purposes.

"The white light was now put full on, and music used again.

"Mrs. B. T. and I changed places; Mrs. B. T. now sitting on left of Frau Silbert was strongly touched on the leg, and a minute or two afterwards the pressure on her foot was so heavy that she became alarmed and called out, and with difficulty pulled the foot from under the increasingly heavy pressure. Frau Silbert also felt pressure on leg, and movements between her and Mrs. B. T.

"At this juncture, Mrs. B. T. asked me to resume my seat on left of Frau Silbert, as she had had enough.

"The Doctor now changed his seat, sitting two from left of Frau Silbert. Red light was turned on. He placed his hand under the table, holding Frau Silbert's hand, when his razor case was placed in his hand. I then remarked that Herr 'Nell' must be very fond of the Doctor, and the reply by raps was, 'Yes; very.' The razor case and the thermometer case had already been used and engraved, at two previous sittings at the College with Frau Silbert. After this, Miss B. T. sitting opposite Frau Silbert, saw a white mist rise from Frau Silbert's hands, which shrank and consolidated and materialized, and there in Frau Silbert's hand was the whole thermometer case (the top of which had been replaced under the table, after it had been given into Frau Silbert's hands at the very start of the sitting).

"Mrs. B. T.'s watch was also returned through Frau Silbert's hands, but no light or mist was seen; to her great satisfaction it was engraved 'N.E.L.'

"The enamelled powder box was returned through the air to Frau Silbert's hands, with flash of light. (She was in trance), and engraved with N and triangle on outside, and inside with 'N-LL.'

"The white light was then put on and we looked under the table. Miss B. T.'s watch had disappeared. We asked where it was, and by raps were told to look by the gramophone. We looked but could not find it. Later on, looking again under the table to see if things had been moved, it was found near Frau Silbert's foot, and Miss B. T. lifted it up, as she was leaving.

"The bell was again rung and thrown from one end of the table to the other, where the Doctor sat, hitting him just below the knee. We all heard the blow, which caused the Doctor to cry out, 'Thank you Herr Nell.'

"The bell then fell heavily to the ground. We laughed at the Doctor for 'hanking Herr Nell for such a knock. Next morning there was a black bruise and tender spot on the leg where the bell had struck him.

"The sitting now broke up—Miss N. and Miss B. T. having to leave. A young man had called and joined the group as we went into the dining room; we did not however expect any more manifestations. We sat talking at the heavy round dining table, on which were placed some refreshments—cake and wine. Mrs. B. T., Frau Silbert, the Doctor, and myself were seated, the others standing. Mrs. B. T. was just passing a plate to Frau Silbert when the table slid round about twelve inches. We were amazed. The glasses were filled, and the young man had emptied his and stepped towards the table to place the empty glass on it, when the table simply leapt at him. He was scared. The table rose in a slanting direction about 6-in. off the floor, and came down with a decided thump, but nothing was

broken or spilt. This was repeated a second time, as was also the moving round of the table. The young man by this time was very anxious to leave! and did so, with Miss N., and Miss B. T.

"Five of us were now left. Frau Silbert and son, Mrs. B. T., the Doctor, and myself. Rappings were then heard all over the room. Frau Silbert said at once, 'These are not the rappings of Herr Nell.' And turning to Mrs. B. T. said, 'It is your husband and someone else.' The rappings became agitated and almost like a Morse code. W. was spelt out. William was the name of Mrs. B. T.'s husband.

"We then returned to the Library to collect our things, picking up what was still under the table. I then remembered that I had replaced the gold ring on the floor, which had been returned to me at the beginning of the sitting, but it was not to be found, so we looked around, and from where Frau Silbert was standing she pointed to the gramophone at the other side of room, and said, 'There it is,' and sure enough the ring lay on the table just in front of gramophone where we had been directed to look for Miss B. T.'s watch.

"Mrs. and Miss B. T. have given me in their own words the description of what they felt and saw, also the Doctor, and their reports agree with my own notes made the day following the sitting.

"It was a wonderful experience to us, especially as it was all so informal and no preparations made. Frau Silbert gave expression that she felt the company very harmonious."

B. C. M., January 3rd, 1926.

SPONTANEOUS PHENOMENA.

As has so often been recorded with Frau Silbert, remarkable phenomena sometimes take place on occasions when there is no regular séance work. When she is happy and comfortable, and very frequently at meal times, these have been noticed with as much precision as in the séance room.

Mr. Drayton Thomas notes in his report that the phenomena on certain Tuesdays were slow. I do not know whether there is any connection between the two facts, but on several evenings of the same dates at dinner, there were strong manifestations, and we said laughingly that "Nell" was finishing the séance.

The following illustrates this:—

Tuesday, November 24th, at 7.15 p.m., at dinner-table at College. Six persons present. Full lights. Loud knockings heard; located on back of Frau Silbert's chair.

A visitor from abroad, Mrs. A., an intelligent student of psychic matters, sat on medium's right, and felt touchings; then she was amazed to feel a mass pressing against her, which she described as like the pressure a large dog might make; this was felt against her left limb, between herself and Frau Silbert. Touchings and pullings of hem of her skirt followed. The mass effect passed after a minute, and she looked carefully down between herself and the medium. She saw what she described as a very large finger touch her, and placing her left hand on her left knee, was touched by it, and described it as feeling rough and moderately warm. Frau Silbert

began to look herself in same place, and said she saw a hand with fingers faintly luminous between her and Mrs. A., and said she had not seen this manifestation for some time. Lights on brackets on the wall behind were shining under the table while this was observed.

A message was then dictated from "Nell" by raps, that a letter would reach Frau Silbert from home next day. (This did not arrive till the day following again.)

The raps were interesting and characteristic. Asked to give them slowly, as they were coming at such a tremendous rate that it was difficult for Frau Silbert to get the message, they began slowly, and heavily, with a definite pause between each, as much as to say, "You slow coaches, is this slow enough for you?"

On *December 1st.*—Rather similar phenomena during the evening meal, as if the power was great, and A was touched almost incessantly.

December 8th.—A séance in the afternoon had been almost negative; but almost as soon as dinner began loud knockings were heard on the back of Frau Silbert's chair, and then on the underside of table. Mrs. A. sat on Frau Silbert's right. She is strongly mediumistic, and felt continuous touchings, and asked if someone would change places with her to experience these. Another resident, Mrs. K., took the place on medium's right; Mrs. K. dropped a finger ring on the floor between herself and Frau Silbert. Frau Silbert's son sat on his mother's left hand. He put his hand on his right knee under table, and in a second the ring was handed to him, and he laid it on the table; he said he felt the touch of fingers as it was placed in his hand. The ring had in that moment of time been picked from the floor, carried past the medium and lifted and placed in the hand of Herr S.

An empty tumbler was then placed on the floor between Mrs. K. and Frau Silbert. I asked "Nell" if he thought he could move it or lift it, to give three knocks. The medium drew her skirt slightly away from Mrs. K., who saw, by the electric light from behind shining under the table, the tumbler moving about, almost as if turning over, at a distance of quite 4 inches from the medium's right foot. It did not fall over, but rocked gently. As Frau Silbert and Mrs. K. both watched, the movement stopped. I then proposed "Nell's" health, lifting my own tumbler in my hand, and immediately came three loud clear thumps on the floor, evidently made by the tumbler. Herr S., who still held his hand on his right knee, had the tumbler immediately placed in it, and brought it on to the table. We found the three thumps could be repeated exactly by knocking the bottom of the tumbler hard the floor. During all this Frau Silbert's hands were occupied with her knife and fork, or clearly in view to others at table.

PHENOMENA IN PUBLIC.

On Saturday, December 12th, Frau Silbert, her son, a friend and myself went to dine at a public restaurant. We sat at a table, not far from the orchestra, and Frau Silbert much enjoyed the music, good music always moves her. There were bright lights, the usual noise of conversation and dishes, and quite a number of other diners were near us. Mr. Hewat McKenzie was hindered, and arrived half an hour after we had begun our meal, but his place at the table was retained. The moment he sat down, the table began moving about quite strongly in a shuffling manner, and this kept up for quite five minutes. Mr. McKenzie was then touched on foot and leg, the edge of his trouser being pulled, and then a powerful grip on his knee assured him "Nell" was there in force. He described it as stronger than anything he had experienced in Frau Silbert's séances, and that the grip was as natural and the feeling of fingers as clear as if a human hand had executed it. Frau Silbert and her son and our friend faced us in full light, with hands in full view dealing with their food. Frau Silbert was pleased at Mr. McKenzie's arrival, and this may have assisted the sudden out-going of psychic force.

SÉANCES HELD IN PRIVATE HOUSES OUT OF LONDON.

The following reports of two séances held outside the College, but at which I was present, show that in entirely strange houses the phenomena can be very remarkable. Frau Silbert was happy at once in both houses, although in the first circle she had only met Mr. C.V.P. once and none of the others, and in the second the entire circle were complete strangers to her. It transpired that one gentleman had sat with her at the College in 1923, but neither she nor I recalled him.

SÉANCE HELD AT THE HOUSE OF C. V. P., BOURNEMOUTH.

December 28th, 1925.

From notes made during séance by Mrs. McKenzie.

Present:—Dr. M., Mr. C. V. P., Mr. and Mrs. H., two other ladies, and myself. Sat round an ordinary dining room table. Various articles placed under table. White light at various strengths used.

Frau Silbert had met C. V. P. before and felt happy. Subdued white light over table. Knockings and greetings to all immediately places at table were taken. Touchings on foot of sitter on the medium's right.

C. V. P. left his seat on medium's left to work Angelus on opposite side of table from medium, and a large bell was thrown out from under the table towards him. Tapping felt on heel of Mrs. A., on medium's right.

A scribe missed from the College for a week was suddenly caught by the medium in the air.

An interval was called for, and in fuller light a wrist watch was found to be gone from under the table. Dr. M. took place on medium's left.

Subdued light again, the medium turned slightly to the left, and between her hands was a gold wrist watch chain, but no watch. It seems that this was made to unhook, but would not come off without deliberate unhooking. This was not known to anyone at the table but the owner.

Two bright sheet flashes of light from under the table were seen between the medium and Dr. M., on her left. Another bright flash seen by the Doctor alone.

Interval, a change of sitters was made, and Mrs. H. sat on the medium's right.

Subdued Light. Touches felt by Dr. M. on foot, fairly continuously: up to this all touches had been directed to sitter on the medium's right.

A sitter opposite the medium said she was sure she had seen the watch rise between the medium and the Doctor on left just when the flashes of light came; a little later when good light was put on, the watch was found on the floor between the medium and the Doctor, just where the sitter had seen it attempt to rise.

Fuller Light. A heavy clasp knife was suddenly caught by the medium on the surface of the table about the middle, it made a great noise as if it fell, as she caught it.

Subdued Light. Two bells were rung together under the table, the tones were quite distinct and different. The bells were rung together a second time. Great cold felt under the table.

Fuller Light. Change of sitters. Mr. H. sits on medium's right, and Mr. C. V. P. on left.

The bell began to ring continuously against the latter's foot as he sat down. The medium felt he gave her good psychic power.

Subdued Light. The edge of Mr. H.'s trouser, next to the medium, was pulled often, as if by fingers.

Suddenly the medium stood up, and took from her wrist a gold bracelet with a joint which was quite properly placed on her wrist. She made a sign of engraving on it in dumb show, but on examination we could find nothing upon it.

C. V. P. was called from the room, leaving a space on medium's left. Dr. M. was next, alone, at the short end of the table. He put his hand under the table and requested "Nell" to give him his cigarette case. After a minute it was quietly put into his hand, and the letter N was found engraved upon it. The medium's hands were clearly above table in excellent view.

An attempt was made to do the same to Mr. H. on the medium's right, but this failed. We heard something drop, and on examination a case was found open on the floor with all the cigarettes scattered.

Brilliant flashes of light came from under the table. A hand was seen by the medium and Dr. M. quite clearly between them, and the hand at his request touched his. He reported that he felt the fingers perfectly definitely. The bell was heard to fall at the same moment as if an attempt had been made to bring it up.

The medium asked that C. V. P. be requested to come back and take his place on her left. He was called, and the moment he entered the door she sprang up with a very heavy cigar case belonging to him in her hand. She made a motion of engraving, and the letter N. was found upon it.

Full Light; all were talking, when suddenly the medium sprang up again holding a police whistle and cord in her hand. Previously we had asked "Nell" to bring this to its owner, Mrs. A. and Mr. H. had felt an attempt to tie the cord round his ankle.

A very good séance.

As I entered the house where we were living, after driving there from the séance, I saw several bright flashes of light in the lobby, apparently coming from Frau Silbert's feet.

SITTING ON DECEMBER 30TH, 1925, AT 7 P.M.

At Mrs. P.'s house, Bournemouth.

From notes taken by Mrs. McKenzie during the séance.

Fourteen persons were present, including the medium.

Adjustable red and white light used.

Arrangements were made entirely by Mrs. P., and persons invited by her, all strangers to the medium. All sat round a long table. No music. The medium seemed well and happy, enjoying the Bournemouth air.

Many articles were placed under a long dining table round which we sat, the medium sat with her back to a book case.

White Light. Knocks were heard almost immediately the sitting commenced. Good knocks were given for greetings.

Red Light. The medium went into trance, made dumb show, stood up and stretched out her hands and a metal match box fell into them. Several sitters said they saw it a few inches above her hands (about 4 feet above the table top), but I did not notice this.

White Light. The articles were looked at under the table and it was found that a bangle set with brilliants was gone. Its owner said jokingly, "Nell, one of the brilliants has gone. I can't spare any more."

Red Light. The medium rose again in trance, and stretching out her arm the bangle was seen on her wrist. On examination, another of the brilliants was found to be gone. The floor was thoroughly searched at the end of the sitting, but it could not be found. "Nell" evidently took up the challenge.

Many flashes of light were seen, spreading, seeming to come from under the table, and the region of the medium's limbs.

Strong knocks came on table in time to singing, and powerful touches were felt by the sitters, on either side of the medium. An attempt was made to hand up the bell to a sitter, but this failed. We heard it fall back on the floor.

White Light. Two fresh sitters were placed next to the medium.

Red Light. The medium made dumb show of holding a watch. Vivid flashes of light over table apparently from the medium's hands.

White Light. An examination under the table showed that a small wrist watch had disappeared.

Red Light. The medium stretched out her hand, and the watch seemed to appear in it. It was marked "Nell."

The small scribe which had disappeared, two evenings before, at a séance, was thrown on the table.

Mr. B. on the medium's left, a mediumistic sitter, had many touches on limbs. The medium suddenly stretched her empty hand out to his collar at the back of his coat, and seemed to pick up small folding scissors in case which he had placed under the table. The bell under the table was rung in time to singing.

A second attempt to lift up the bell between the medium and the right hand sitter failed, and it clattered on the floor. The sitter said he felt it coming up his leg.

A few minutes later, a large watch belonging to this sitter, came up on his leg between himself and the medium. He described it as being pushed up.

White Light. The sitters on either side of medium were changed.

Mrs. P. sat on the medium's left, and as she sat down, Frau Silbert put her hand on Mrs. P.'s lap. There was a vivid flash of light, and she triumphantly held up a ring previously placed on floor belonging to Mrs. P.

Red Light. A tin box came a few minutes later into the medium's hands, but no one could say how it came there.

Generally a very successful séance. Every article placed under the table was brought up.

We went into the next room for some refreshment, and while there, continuous tappings were heard on the wall behind the medium. The sitter who owned the bangle asked where her brilliant had gone, and the words "in room" were spelled out, but further search revealed nothing.

With such a large circle it was difficult to accommodate everyone round the table, and the sitters on right and left of the medium were seated quite closely against her on either side.

SOME VARIED AND INTERESTED HAPPENINGS AT SÉANCES.

On November 22nd Mr. McKenzie took up his position on the floor between two sitters, opposite the medium, to watch for any visible ectoplastic extrusions. He noted the medium's feet controlled by the sitters on each side of her, the sitter on right, an experienced one, reported touches almost like rods rising against her left limb next to the medium, who also spoke of touches. As this was reported Mr. McKenzie saw the medium's skirt moving rapidly, but as he continued to look, the movement ceased. I sat opposite the medium, and had distinct pats on my knee, a series, as if with the fingers of a hand laid together, and then a series of pushes as if made with the hand closed. I placed my hand quietly on my knee, but there was no response to my suggestion that the same thing should be done upon my bare hand.

The contact with bare flesh seems sometimes too much for the ectoplastic extrusions to stand, sometimes the approach of the hand will cause them to retreat.

On *December 6th*. In white light, during an interval, I held my hand in bare contact with the velvet over the aperture in table. In a few seconds, it was clutched by what seemed like fingers from underneath, quite sharply. A bird making a dive at something, securing it and retreating is a good example of the swift action.

On *December 7th*, the following notes were made at the time by A.C.C. No. 2, Red Light. "The medium was entranced, and slowly rose from her seat, then sat down, stretched her right hand across the table, towards covered aperture. She suddenly dropped her hand on the velvet, turning her head aside, meanwhile with almost a frightened expression on her face. She then clutched the velvet in her hand, and at the same moment, a ball of ectoplasm appeared for the fraction of a second through the hole, and as sitters watched, seemed to take the form of a badly formed hand rather greyish-white. It shot up above the table for a moment, but one of the sitters uttering an exclamation, it as quickly disappeared below the table. This was followed by two flashes of light from under the table.

Soon after the bell was thrown up suddenly through the aperture on to the table, throwing the velvet aside with the force employed."

On former visits the main touches, etc., seemed to be largely on the medium's left side. During this visit, they seemed to operate nearly as freely upon her right as upon her left, and Frau Silbert said this had been noticed since her illness of a year previous.

December 10th. I sat opposite the medium, and my notes record the following. "In No. 2, Red Light, suddenly the velvet cloth on aperture was seen to move, and I saw, on the side next to me, and furthest away from the medium, three knuckles very white, just on the edge of the aperture. Immediately the attention of other sitters was directed to it, the hand retreated, and a noise of something falling was heard, recognised to be the sound of a heavy cigarette case placed under the table. This was, at the next interval found nearer the medium's feet than where originally placed."

December 13th. A man's watch was put under the table; the case, he told us, would not remain shut. In white light, the medium clutched at the velvet, but got nothing, and we heard the sound of something heavy falling. This was in an interval of white light and examination was at once made. There was nothing under the aperture to make the heavy thud noticed, but the watch was found between its owner, on the medium's left, and the medium, as if when there was a failure to get it through the aperture it had been drawn back by the extrusion to its outlet near the medium's limb. The watch was put under the table again, and in a few seconds, Mrs. K. on right of medium, felt as if something was on her leg and being pushed up towards her knee. Frau Silbert stretched out her hand towards Mrs. K.'s knee, and brought up the watch, the case was wide open, and it was a difficult thing to handle in this way. Mrs. K. described the feeling of a swelling towards her of the medium's right leg, and then as if something pushed out and touched her. Other sitters have often described a similar sensation.

THE ENDLESS CORD.

December 17th. An endless cord with a label attached, examined and sealed at the joint by two gentlemen, was placed under the table, and "Nell" was asked if he would do his best to tie a knot in the single strand as in Professor Zollner's experiment with the medium Slade.

In the middle of the séance the request was again made. The medium seemed to become entranced, and a very intense look came in her eyes for a few minutes, while she made much dumb show of knotting and tying for several seconds; a little later, more dumb show of working on cord, tying and throwing away.

In white light at an interval, examination by 3 sitters showed that cord had gone. Suddenly the medium commenced to pull at her left foot, exclaiming that the cord was round it. We tried to stop her, asking her to leave it alone until it could be examined, but she pulled frantically, and in a minute had it off, the label attached being torn off in the struggle. She then seemed to come out of a light trance state. When asked why she would not leave it, for us to see how it had been tied, she said she didn't know why, she just had to pull it off, and seemed sorry. The cord after examination was again put under the table at her request, and shortly seemed to be thrown at Mr. S. one of the gentlemen who had examined it, and who sat opposite. Nothing else happened with it, and the experiment was not tried again.

THE NET IN FRONT OF MEDIUM.

January 1st, 1926. A 2-in. mesh fish net was fixed in front of the medium, 2-in. from the ground, and to height of table. Various articles were placed under the table. The sitters on right and left of medium placed their feet just under it, controlling the medium's feet, and soon reported that the net was being drawn very tightly across their feet, the medium reported this also. Sitter on left felt the net was being rolled up just by her right leg between herself and the medium. The bell placed a foot in front of medium with the net between, was heard to ring.

Sitter on left, felt handle of bell being pushed into her shoe and as if something rough was drawn across her foot, and bell was heard to ring.

Later, after extreme cold was experienced by all, the net was again drawn tightly over feet of sitter on medium's right, and she said it seemed as if a *human hand* was laid on her instep for several seconds.

We gained little instruction from the use of the net, except to notice that the extrusion seemed to lift the net out of its way in order to manipulate the articles.

APPEARANCES OF HANDS, OR SUGGESTIONS OF USE OF HANDS OR FINGERS AT SÉANCES.

December 21st. In white light during an interval, a watch was suddenly caught by the medium, apparently on the velvet on aperture. This was followed by something from below pushing the velvet up. The medium and Mrs. B. on her left looked gently under table and saw a hand holding the bell up towards the aperture. It was white, and seemed like an ordinary hand, but they could not see the fingers. The other sitters heard the repeated gentle tinkle of the bell during this time. Later Mrs. B. felt her right foot, held by a *warm* hand upon the instep, and her chair pushed. I placed my hand *under* the velvet on aperture and was immediately touched by what seemed like a finger, with the upmost rapidity.

Mrs. S. did the same, and reported that it seemed as if two large fingers had touched her.

January 4th. In white light, six loud knocks were heard under the table, as if made by some heavy metal article. The velvet on aperture moved, and at the edge the white knuckles of a hand were seen by several sitters.

January 5th. A photographic sitting. The medium complained of heavy and painful pressure on her right foot, and sitter on her right felt as if a mass of something was built up between her and the medium's right leg.

January 7th. A "Daily Mirror" representative asked if he might put his hand under the velvet over aperture. He did so, and said he felt a touch, the same as when holding the medium's hand in the "one, two, three" experiment, and then the bell was placed against his hand. He failed to grasp it, and all heard it fall on floor. A few minutes later he asked if he might try again, and clearly and neatly without fumbling, a cigar case was given into his hand. He said that he felt a touch of a finger, warmer than on the previous occasion.

January 11th. Mr. S. placed hand under velvet, and a cigarette case was placed in his hand. He said he felt a touch as of a coldish finger, very like the touch in the "one, two, three" experiment.

Mr. W. on medium's right, felt a large mass build up between him and medium's right leg.

Mr. J., on medium's left, felt as if a hand with fingers articulated was moving upon his right leg, next the medium.

The medium went into cabinet, and as she touched the curtains a double flash of light was seen. She seemed distressed that she could not get something, and sat in a chair in cabinet in full view, whispering in a complaining tone. Mr. B., a sitter, who is clairvoyant, whispered to me that he could see a hand on her left shoulder. She came back to the table and drew her chair close up and kept feeling round her back again and again, still entranced, and suddenly seemed to seize a watch—which had been missing from under the table—just where Mr. B. had told me he saw the hand.

January 14th. Sitter on medium's left, looking down between herself and the medium, saw a hand as if near medium's feet, later a strong light flashed between this sitter and the medium. The bell was rung loudly and clearly under table without music, for some seconds, as if a hand was holding it firmly. Medium says she has been pricked on her foot by what she thinks must be the scribe, and as if a hand had held it.

In white light I put my hand over velvet, asking "Nell" to touch it. Suddenly something hard was pushed up against my

hand, I grasped it quickly, and turning up inside of velvet, I found a silver cigar case previously under table. The sudden movement into my hand was as if given by an intelligent person passing something quickly to me.

No. 2, Red Light. The velvet was pulled away again, and part of a hand was seen by several sitters. It looked very white.

January 15th. Mr. W. and Mr. S. put their hands over velvet and what felt like a hand pushed upwards and touched them separately. The zither under the table, was struck as if by fingers, at the same moment.

Questions were asked "Nell" re photography, and "Yes and No" was given in fine clearly struck notes on single string of zither. Medium's hands and feet were carefully controlled by experienced sitters.

The medium asked for "Gott Zum Gruss" greeting and "Nell" responded by two single notes and one double on zither.

A sitter asked for special greeting from "Nell." The medium turned both her feet to sitter on her right asking her to control both, and no sound was received. She turned back into her former position, and gave her left foot again to the other controller, while the right was also held; immediately the zither was struck, which rather showed that the force was taken from her right side, and that the turning of this further away interrupted the operation.

Asked if medium would return in the autumn, a big chord was struck joyfully on zither, as if a whole hand was used.

January 18th. Mr. H. put his hand under velvet, and was touched at once as if by a finger.

The above instances are given as illustrations of experiences of various sitters, some experienced in Frau Silbert's phenomena, and some inexperienced. It will be noticed that the impressions are remarkably alike. The requests made by sitters to place hands in the aperture, were granted instantly, and in many cases the response was instantaneous, or not at all.

LUMINOUS PHENOMENA.

The flashes of light so frequently seen with Frau Silbert did not appear quite so often during this visit, although at a few séances they were brilliant, and some spontaneous effects were interesting. Nor was the sound that has been heard to accompany them, and which has been queried by some critics so noticeable.

The dramatic flash which often accompanied the return of the articles into her hand on the former visit, was only seen on two or three occasions.

This may have been the result of the damp weather during the visit, reacting on herself and the sitters, or occasioned by her own state of health; I simply record the facts in relation to this phase.

ATTEMPTS TO PHOTOGRAPH THE ECTOPLASTIC EXTRUSION.

On a previous visit a remarkably good picture of the extrusion which presumably operates in Frau Silbert's mediumship was secured (see fig. 1). It constitutes the first and clearest photograph ever secured with her, to our knowledge, although she has told me of a few other attempts, the results of which I have never been able to see. In this experiment, the conditions of which are fully recorded in *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*, April, 1923, the ectoplasmic hand so freely felt and seen during that visit seems to be protected by a kind of strong sheath, probably a wise precaution from the effect of the powerful flashlight at such close quarters as is required in the Silbert experiments.

This was the only really successful result in a series, although one other showed a cloudy formation round the feet of the medium.

Photographic experiments during the present visit were not undertaken until we were assured Frau Silbert's health would stand it.

She herself is always quite interested in the matter, and very willing to try, but Mr. McKenzie, who always feels there is great danger of disturbance to the medium's psychic forces, by the use of the flashlight, will not experiment unless the medium is in the best of health.

The room was prepared by completely surrounding the table with dark cloth hanging to the floor, and a flap of cloth in front of medium to prevent the light reaching her in any way.

The cameras have to be manipulated from the floor, and were placed at each corner of the table on the floor opposite medium and focussed on her; the flashlight was operated by an electric switch on floor in front of her.

The signal for exposure is sometimes given by "Herr Nell" the control, by a sound of the bell or a twang of the zither, placed on the floor, or by a succession of raps arranged upon, or by a pre-arranged signal agreed upon between "Nell" and the conductor of the circle.

As the medium had gained in weight and seemed particularly well in the new year, after a holiday, a sitting for the purpose was held on January 1st with selected sitters.

This was abortive. Two sensitive plates in light tight covers placed near medium's feet during the séance were not affected in any way.

On January 5th, another attempt was made.

Mr. H. C. Scofield and Mr. F. W. Warrick, with Mr. McKenzie were in charge, "Nell" was asked to show a hand ringing the bell if possible. The medium complained of heavy and painful pressure on her right foot, and sitter on her right felt as if a mass of something soft, and yet capable of resistance was built up between herself and the medium. Something went wrong with

the switch, and the bell was flung out with some force towards the operator. A second exposure was arranged, again the medium complained of a weight like a hand on her foot. An agreed signal of counting had been arranged, but before it was reached, the bell was heard to drop. It was tried again and an exposure made, and the bell heard to drop at the moment. The bell was found under the centre of table, further from the medium than placed.

Two other exposures were made on time signals arranged, and on each occasion the bell was heard to drop as exposure was made, and found under centre of table. On development of all plates, no supernatural results of any kind were found upon them.

January 8th. Cameras as before.

Immediately on beginning of séance, three flashes of light were seen by sitters, as if proceeding from under table. A message was dictated by very faint raps to the effect that what we wished had been effected by these flashes. The shutters of the cameras were open during these flashes, as only a dim red light was permitted in the room, which could not affect them.

"Herr Nell" agreed we should remove these plates to see whether the flashes had affected the plates, as the message seemed to indicate, but on development they were perfectly clear. Other four plates were exposed. Raps were faint and power very feeble. Darkness was called for, and a message dictated the words "An End." The sitter on medium's right felt heavy pressure and touchings for a continuous period between herself and medium, while she carefully controlled her foot.

Nothing supernatural was found on plates on development.

January 12th. Medium carefully controlled. Darkness asked for. Very bright light apparently from medium's feet, and later a bright, almost blue light from her hands which were held by two sitters. A light was seen in cabinet behind her. She seemed nervous, and gave a start and jumped back from table and pushed her chair into cabinet. Shortly she came back to the table, control was resumed, and two plates were exposed. A message dictated was translated "The same plates, expose once again, and there will be success. Quick before time is lost."

Mr. McKenzie refused to obey this message, saying it was wrong, and that if anything were on plates it would be completely spoiled by a second exposure. The medium seemed hurt and said "Nell" was always right, and must be obeyed if success was to be got. Some curious bangings on table in response to questions followed, a very unusual feature, and the heavy table was lifted on two legs, and banged hard on the ground in good light. The two plates were developed, but nothing supernatural was found upon them.

Two others were at once prepared, but the medium continued to feel offended. Some flashes of light were seen, but no exposure

was made as conditions were so bad. Later we found the message had been mistranslated, and that the words "The same plates" should have read "Similar plates," which would have been perfectly understandable and wise. The above all shows how easily messages given in another tongue can be misunderstood, and yet neither the translator, nor the medium to whom the obvious error of exposing plates twice was explained, would acknowledge that the message could mean anything else. Probably the medium's mental disturbance which continued for some hours afterwards, with curious physical results, hindered a clearer version being received from "Nell" at the time.

January 15th. Cameras as before.

Medium seemed to think photographic attempts would be successful. Exposure made at signal, and bell was heard to fall as if from a good height at the very moment, as if it had been held and suddenly released. Another attempt made, and this time when exposure was made at signal, the bell was heard to ring just after flash, showing that control had been kept of it during exposure; we hoped for success.

The zither was placed under table, and eight twangs of it were agreed upon as signal for third exposure, and this was carried out as arranged. On development of all six plates nothing supernatural was found upon them.

January 26th. Great disappointment both to the medium and to the experimenters, that no photographic results had been obtained, and one more attempt was made just before her departure. We had really little hope of success, for the medium's mind was obviously on her journey and home. Neither Miss Eissner nor Mr. Scofield could be present, Mr. Warrick and Mr. McKenzie operated the cameras.

No particular signal was arranged, except the suggestion that "Nell" should ring the bell as clearly as he could and that Mr. McKenzie should flash on the instant. Darkness was asked for. The medium's hands and feet were controlled carefully.

A vigorous ring was heard, and exposures were made. Sitter on medium's right, felt the bell drop on her foot, though she had no idea it was near her. The bell did not drop till flash was just over, and we had an idea this might indicate success.

On development, the plate exposed in Mr. McKenzie's camera, shows the result in Fig. 2. The plate in the other camera was found unexposed, the shutter having unfortunately dropped.

The zither will be noticed in front of the medium where it was placed. A small silver pencil case, placed on floor about centre of table with the bell, has been moved and placed on the top of zither.

The medium's right foot can be seen carefully controlled by Mrs. K.'s left; her left foot was cared for by Mrs. M., on Mrs.

K.'s shoe rests the bell which was heard to drop after the flash for exposure, and behind the medium's foot are the same curved lines, as seen in Fig. 1, apparently the ectoplasmic formation in retreat to the medium's body, after dropping the bell. Even though the bell did not drop until the exposure was over, the ectoplasmic mass may have become invisible to the camera, though retaining its power of action. I referred before to the fact that building-up force did not seem so good on this visit, and this may account for the poorer result as compared with Fig 1, but it is valuable for comparison.

We regret for Frau Silbert's sake and for the sake of psychic science that no better results were obtained, but the difficulties of obtaining such are apparent to all students, and many experiments are needed to secure even a small result.

It will be seen that in these Silbert experiments very little apparatus was used. When attempts were made to do so to verify results they seemed to be ignored by the control. This is no argument against Frau Silbert's work, simply that her helpers have developed on certain lines, and pursue their own methods. Sir William Crookes in 1876, at the British Association said, "I must entirely dissent from Prof. Barrett, when he says that a trained physical inquirer is no match for a professional conjurer. I maintain that a physical enquirer is more than a match," Sir William Crookes used his own laboratory and his own registering apparatus, but he knew that with certain mediums, acquaintance with their work and careful attention under all sorts of conditions can supply a basis for necessary observations.

The younger mediums, more interested in modern apparatus will probably show themselves readier to use such for psychic manifestations.

It is interesting to note in Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's new "History of Spiritualism," Vol. i. p. 196, that some of D. D. Home's early experiments in England corresponded with Frau Silbert's results. In the presence of the scientist Sir David Brewster, "Most unaccountable rappings were produced in various parts of the table." A small handbell was laid with its mouth upon the carpet, and it actually rang when nothing could have touched it." The bell came over to him, he adds, and placed itself in his hand, and it did the same to Lord Brougham. He concludes "We could give no explanation of them, and could not conjecture how they could be produced by any kind of mechanism." (From "Home Life of Sir David Brewster," by his daughter.)

D. D. Home resembled Frau Silbert too in that he continually declared, as her control "Herr Nell" does, that he had been sent on a mission "That mission is to demonstrate immortality." Surely it is the greatest mission in the world, and worth the pain and labour experienced by the medium, who has been chosen for this heavy task.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR.

(The Editor does not hold himself responsible for views expressed by his contributors.)

(For an exhaustive survey of the case dealt with below see April (1926) PSYCHIC SCIENCE.)

(Mr. Hubert Wales' valuable letter was unavoidably held over in the April issue of PSYCHIC SCIENCE.)

MR. SOAL'S EXPERIMENTS WITH MRS. COOPER.

To the Editor of PSYCHIC SCIENCE.

SIR,—

Your short note on this subject (on p. 289 of the January issue of PSYCHIC SCIENCE) records an impression so totally different from that made on my mind, that I venture to ask you to allow me, in fairness to Mr. Soal and to Mrs. Cooper, to discuss the report a little more fully and from another standpoint.

To you Mr. Soal's paper seemed to be "very dull reading" and to deal with "inferior results"; and you evidently felt some surprise that the Society for Psychical Research considered it worth publishing. To me, on the other hand, it appeared to be a paper of exceptional interest and value, the most important, perhaps, that the Society has issued since Mr. G. W. Balfour's "Ear of Dionysius" in 1917. And, so far from finding it dull, I wished it had been ten times longer than it was.

In the first place, the experiments seem to me definitely to establish Mrs. Cooper's reputation as a medium of the first rank. Her gifts, no doubt, have been known for some time to those connected with the British College, but I write as a member of the outside public. If such records as Mr. Soal publishes represent to you "inferior results," I can only feel, Sir, that you must have been blessed in your experiments almost beyond the dreams of mortal man.

For my part, since I became interested in psychical research, some ten years ago, I have made a careful study of, I think, practically all the published reports of sittings with such mediums as Mrs. Piper, Mrs. Thompson, Mrs. Leonard, and many others; and I feel, without hesitation, that, from an evidential point of view, the results Mr. Soal obtained with Mrs. Cooper are at least equal to any of the same type that have ever been given to the public.

Every case in the report seems to me to take you right out of the range of chance coincidence; you are not left with one lingering doubt; and that is a position not often or easily reached by a person of my cautious temperament. I did not, for example, feel that I had reached it, quite comfortably and surely, in the case of the "Book Tests" with Mrs. Leonard, in spite of the view of the S.P.R. and of the experiments they undertook, which appeared to support it; I did not feel so in the case of a great many of the "Cross-Correspondences"; and I certainly did not feel so in the case of the more recently published "Forecasts in Scripts concerning the War." Mr. Soal's results with Mrs. Cooper, however, impressed me as so manifestly transcending chance, that it would be preposterous even to suggest it.

But, in addition to the discovery of a good medium, there is, to my mind, another and more important reason for considering Mr. Soal's experiments of unusual value. They display, in small compass and sharp focus—more definitely, I think, than any previous experiments—a variety of mediumistic means of obtaining information supernormally. I feel that this is so striking as to justify me in asking for space to touch briefly on the four sections of his paper.

In the first section we have a series of incidents—all good ones—of the familiar type, which lend themselves readily and naturally to the hypothesis of survival of personality and communication from a dead person. They all deal with matters which the purporting communicator could be proved to have known, things that had happened to him in his lifetime; not current happenings in the life of the sitter (a very different thing), introduced with some such remark as, "I was with you yesterday."

Among them, occurs one of those evidential gems ("The Buried Medal"), which are so rare that recorded instances could, I think, be counted on the fingers of one hand; a case, that is, where information is given concerning a matter (connected with the dead person) unknown to anyone living, and yet verifiable and verified. No such case through Mrs. Piper, so far as I remember, ever came off, and only one (The Receipt for Pomatum) (*Proc. S.P.R. Pt. XLIV.*, pp. 181-2) through Mrs. Thompson. Through Mrs. Leonard, The Dark Note-Book (*Proc. S.P.R. Pt. LXXXI.*, p. 253) was almost one, but in that case the record of the sitting was not nearly so carefully taken. I confess, Sir, I am not yet so blasé, so gorged with these cases, that I found Mr. Soal's account of the digging for the medal in the indicated spot, of the first tinkle of the spade against the metal, of the final unearthing and examination of it, "very dull reading."

In the second section of the paper (the "John Ferguson" series) we have a case which, I think everyone will agree, points conclusively to the obtaining of knowledge telepathically from the sitter's mind. Such cases, of course, are fairly common, but, since science still denies their possibility, always valuable; and this one struck me as being particularly definite, consistent and sustained. You, Sir, brush it aside quite lightly—to me enigmatically—on the ground that the communicator was "fictitious." But, surely, the whole essence and value of an experiment of this nature lies in the fact that the communicator was fictitious, that he existed only in Mr. Soal's imagination?

The third section, I think it will be equally generally agreed, presents a case of cryptomnesia—the emergence of a subconscious memory of the medium's. Again we have had many similar, but again this seems an exceptionally good and clear one, well worthy, in my judgment, to be put on record.

The fourth section deals with the amazing "Gordon Davis" communications—a case unique, so far as I know, in psychical research. For the benefit of those who have not had an opportunity of reading it, I may say, perhaps, that Mr. Soal obtained, through Mrs. Cooper's "direct voice," communication from a man with whom he had been slightly acquainted and of whose death he had heard. All the statements the communicator made about himself proved to be correct, and even the personal mannerisms, the modes of expression and the vocal intonation were characteristic and convincing.

Had he, in fact, been dead, many of us would, undoubtedly, have classed the case as an additional piece of evidence for survival of a familiar type: It would have gone to swell the cumulative weight of it. But Mr. Soal learnt accidentally, a year or two later, that he was alive and well, and, at the time of the sittings, had been engaged in his business. Ultimately, in fact, he read the record and recognised himself—much to his surprise. He had done nothing, consciously, to produce it; and, among all the veridical matter it contained, was the one false statement that he was dead.

That manifestly introduces us to a new and extremely perplexing problem. Disappointing as it must be to those of us who want to see survival proved, it cannot be denied—at least, I feel no disposition to deny it—that it casts a certain amount of doubt, not only on the evidence for it which Mr. Soal puts

into his first section, but on all the evidence of a similar type that has ever been obtained through any medium—a very great bulk of matter.

But would you urge that the S.P.R., having perceived its bearing, should have declined to publish the case, that they should have suppressed it? It seems to me that that would have been a somewhat ostrich-like course of procedure. For my own part, as I have just said, I very much hope survival may be proved; I search the records zealously for every scrap of evidence that will resist any other hypothesis; I make no pretence to be enamoured of the idea of annihilation, and I cannot understand those who say it appeals to them. But *if* the hope should prove to be illusory, *if* it should have to be relinquished, I should like to think I should face the music squarely.

At the same time, I see, in fact, no reason for pessimism. The very existence of psychic activities so far-reaching as those shown by the Davis case is an argument that our material bodies and our material consciousness are not the limit of us. And if it has knocked from the theory of survival some of the too eager and fanciful pinnacles, some of the naive excrescences that always look shaky, it should only enable us, I think, to build on a broader and surer foundation.

Yours faithfully,

HUBERT WALES.

"THE GORDON DAVIS CASE."

Communications from a Living Man.

The article of Mr. Hewat McKenzie, the Honorary Principal, in the April number of *PSYCHIC SCIENCE* was received with pleasure by many of the most thoughtful students, if we can judge by the various letters received dealing with the matter:—

Lady Grey of Fallodon says in a letter to Mr. McKenzie:—

"I must tell you how well I think you discuss and set forth the case of the 'Gordon Davis Communications,' in the current issue of *PSYCHIC SCIENCE*. It is admirably done. The only point where the reasoning is not so close as elsewhere is in the conclusion of the paragraph headed '—Why did Gordon Davis communicate through a medium?' but a few turns of your sentences would soon put this right.

"In this particular paragraph you speak of Mr. Soal having supplied the psychic link with Gordon Davis, though at the time of the sitting he had no thought of him, but you close the paragraph by saying it is the affection between the spirit and the mortal that draws them together. Here your sequence is broken. I feel it would strengthen the passage if you merely emphasise this new and curious fact, that Spirit Intercourse evidently can take place when it is the sitter only who establishes the contact, and this unconsciously to himself. I agree with you that this case fortifies rather than weakens the position held by those of us who believe in Spirit Intercourse.

"I should like to see your selection of excerpts from this case and your remarks published in a pamphlet by themselves. The whole incident suggests that we are right in feeling we are all much 'greater than we know,' for apparently our operative area in the etheric world is far wider than we guess. It throws a light, too, on the many vague untraceable communications that come through. Has enough notice been drawn to the fact that the voice when it came through at this séance was so much louder than the usual so-called spirit voice? This seems to me significant.

"Certainly it is one of the most astonishing and interesting cases that has ever come to light in this field of investigation."

Miss H. A. Dallas writes:—"I think Mr. McKenzie's comments on Mr. Soal's experiences in the "Gordon Davis Case" are the most helpful that I have seen on this rather puzzling case. I am grateful for his article, as I have found the case most puzzling. There is just one point he does not mention under the heading of 'Evidence that the Control was of an unusual kind,' and that is the fact that 'Nada,' the 'Control,' said that Mrs. Cooper had '*gone out*.' To the best of my recollection that was not said on other occasions. It suggests 'travelling Clairvoyance,' as if *she* had visited G.D., and perhaps was herself controlling her own body in an unusual way.

"About three years ago I published an article in the 'Occult Review' on communication from the still incarnate, and mentioned a case of a boy who controlled the Ouija-Board in a house near to where he was living. In this case the boy must have been partly out of his body. Now, if Mrs. Cooper was partly out of hers, the communications from G.D. may have been due to a blend of her mind with his, and in that state she very probably would not know whether he was in the flesh or not, as she would be half in a dream.

"These are only confused suggestions, but they may be worth thinking over."

In an article in the "American Journal of Psychical Research" for March, 1926, René Sudre, of the Paris Revue Métapsychique, argues that in this "beautiful experiment," which Mr. Soal carried out with Mrs. Cooper, there is only the evidence of the building up of a fictitious personality, as in the "John Ferguson" case, starting from some nearly true circumstances got by clairvoyance—making little by little a novel—the elements of which were transmitted to her by Mr. Soal.

He goes on to say: "Mr. Soal made the experiment with as much evidence in another way with the same medium. I refer now to the 'Gordon Davis' case, in which Mrs. Cooper embodies as though he were dead a man who was living and in good health, but whom the sitter believed to have been killed during the war." He takes these two cases as typical of evidence against spiritual survival—or, at any rate, against the claims of classical spiritism. In the May number he deals with the aspect of pre-vision in the case.

(Readers are referred to Mr. De Brath's article in the present issue for a resumé of Sudre's views upon these matters.—Ed.)

NOTES BY THE WAY.

WE are happy to present to our readers, again by the kindness of Mrs. Dora Head, a fine photograph of a great worker in the cause of Psychic Science, Mrs. Champion de Crespigny. Mrs. de Crespigny has been associated with the subject since she was eight years old, so that hers is no new enthusiasm.

Acquaintance with the Theosophical movement in past days, as well as with Spiritualism, has armed her at many points to meet arguments against the subject, and before many audiences she has broken a lance on behalf of the facts of Psychic Science. Only recently at the annual dinner of the Writers' Club, she took up cudgels on behalf of the "wee folk," and interested, if she did not convince, her audience. She is at present Vice-President of this famous Literary Club, and has been its President, no light honour nor lightly bestowed.

She is also a Vice-President of the Lyceum Club, where many debates on Psychic Science have been held. She is a member of the Royal Institution, and was recently elected a Fellow of the Philosophical Society of England. As an artist Mrs. de Crespigny's work is known to many galleries, where her quiet pools and wonderful trees and her studies of London's great water-way, are appreciated by lovers of true art. As a writer she is known as a contributor of fine short stories to the well-known magazines; she has written several plays, and last year made a new bid for fame with an excellent book of detective stories, which is to be followed by another. A more serious book, "The Mind of a Woman," appeared several years ago, and gives a picture of woman's evolution from primitive to modern types.

We still wait for a book from our Hon. Councillor on psychic matters, her experiences and deductions from a life-time of study and observation. Mrs. de Crespigny as an artist, as a writer, as a most skilful musician, as a speaker on literary as well as psychic subjects, was surely blessed at her birth, and added to these talents was the gift of a good physique and a cheerful and equable temperament.

Sports of all sorts, lawn tennis, swimming, and everything associated with open air, she loved and excelled in in earlier life.

She carries her many-sided nature, nobly and yet reverently, as if always she bore with her that "magic staff" of advice given to one of our early pioneers: "Under all circumstances keep an even mind."

Truly a woman any cause may be proud of, and Spiritualism must have something worthy in itself to have secured her allegiance.

* * * * *

The College has had during the past term a visit from Miss Hazel Ridley, of Buffalo, U.S.A., a trance medium, whose evidential work is highly valued by many investigators in U.S.A. A report of some of her work will be made in a future issue. Mrs. Duncan U. Fletcher, the wife of a Senator in Washington, recently attended the MacLeod

sub-committee which is conducting hearings on the so-called fortune-tellers' bill, and related some remarkable personal experiences through mediumship. Mrs. Fletcher has had excellent results with Miss Ridley. Houdini is one of the chief opponents to the passage of the bill, which is designed to give organised Spiritualist Churches the right to include in their work the fore-telling of future events. At present anyone who predicts the future is held to be a disorderly person, but many from a religious point of view believe they can foresee events, and the bill is designed to give protection to such.

* * * * *

Echoes of the "Morning Post" series of articles on Spiritualism by Dr. Percy Dearmer and a special correspondent, continue to be heard in many countries, where other papers have quoted freely from Dr. Dearmer's temperate statements.

* * * * *

An able review of Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "History of Spiritualism," from Dr. Dearmer's pen on June 2nd, continues to keep the matter before the public in a reasonable way.

* * * * *

The "Daily News" correspondent who was responsible for a previous long series also deals with the "History" in a two-column article, and has also recently given a series of reports on a visit paid to the Schneiders at Braunau, with Mr. Harry Price; he seems to be convinced that on that occasion he saw some supernormal occurrences. Those who know, are aware that it takes years to make a good observer and researcher, especially on psycho-physical phenomena, and realise his difficulties in the few observations it was possible to make.

In the "Daily News," of February 6th, the same journalist said after various séances, "I have neither seen nor heard anything that seemed conclusive evidence of communications with the dead or even psychic phenomena." So we have distinct advance in this instance and an attempt to deal fairly with the matter.

* * * * *

The Church too cannot leave psychic matters alone. At a recent Diocesan Conference in Exmouth, a resolution was passed without dissentients, that "This conference is prepared to expect and welcome new light from psychical research upon the powers and processes of the spirit of man."

One newspaper heads its report of one part of Lord William Cecil's speech "Malign Spirits Beyond", and completely ignores the more favourable aspect, while the "Morning Post" reports the address as on the whole quite favourable to the subject. Mr. Marshall Hall and Robert Blatchford joined in the correspondence following the report.

* * * * *

Father Ronald Knox, in "The Universe" of April 23rd, continues to expose his ignorance of psychic facts. He makes play with the idea that Spiritualists attempt to make both a science and religion out of these, and cannot make up their minds which they will have.

It does not apparently appeal to him that for the first time since primitive Christianity there is a chance through psychic phenomena of having the main tenets of his own church established upon scientific evidence. No scientific facts have ever been faced with the possibility of a religion springing out of them, and yet because of the psychological bearings of psychic facts, this becomes possible. Metapsychical science is therefore an advance on all present day science, which up to the present has been wholly materialistic.

Knox is fond of using the term Spiritism, which is seldom used in England. His ribaldry is uncalled for and distasteful, and we regret that the Roman Church has not a more dignified advocate of any views she may have upon the subject.

* * * * *

Water divining had recently a remarkable recognition in India, when Major C. A. Pogson was officially appointed as a Government water diviner, and is stated to receive a salary and expenses of £4,500 a year. Seventy-six new wells for agriculturists, including 30 for drinking water, is the record of a year's work by Major Pogson, whose work is evidently of a useful scientific nature, through which large irrigation schemes may be successfully undertaken.

* * * * *

A note in "Nature" by Sir Oliver Lodge refers to a statement by Professor H. E. Armstrong, and says, "Professor Armstrong virtually asks me to withdraw from the Royal Society because I have gradually reached complete conviction on a subject of age-long debate and uncertainty, and have said so, while as yet the majority of Fellows still doubt. If I had any uncertainty about the matter I would say so, but it is madness to be false to truth no matter what the penalty may be."

* * * * *

History repeats itself—a similar threat was once made to Sir William Crookes, and we sympathise deeply with professional men who have to face such narrow-mindedness.

Happily, Sir Oliver Lodge's great contributions to scientific research in other matters secure him the support of the majority of his co-peers, but that it is possible that such a suggestion could be made to-day, even by one person in a learned society, is a hint, if we need it, as to how close we still are to the dark ages.

* * * * *

The visit to London of the Fakirs Rahman and Tahra Bey, whose work in Paris last year was so widely reported was unfortunately interrupted by the Lord Chamberlain banning their public appearances at theatres, as the performance was not considered suitable for public exhibition.

Some private demonstrations were, however, given, and a report of one before a company of doctors lies before us, which we shall hope to produce in a coming issue. The strike came just at the moment of the ban, so altogether the visit was unavoidably shortened.

News regarding "Margery" activities continue to reach us. We see from the "Boston Herald" of March 22nd, that Dr. Crandon has given his first public address on psychic phenomena in the Community Church, Boston, and expressed his belief that these would ultimately form the basis of the religious belief regarding survival.

* * * * *

Among interesting points in the lecture, Dr. Crandon mentioned that "Margery" lost four pounds in weight at every séance, and did not regain this until 48 hours afterwards: that she now sits for special purposes in a Windsor chair in a plate-glass cabinet, wearing a simple garment. Her ankles are fastened to eye bolts in the floor: her hands are pushed through side-openings in cabinet and lashed with wire; round her neck is a padlocked leather collar fastened to an eyebolt in top of cabinet; the ends of the wire lashings are sealed in lead seals. Dr. Richardson's voice-cut-out machine to prove voice independence is used while she is restrained in the above way, and Walter's voice talks and whistles freely for nearly a minute.

* * * * *

Experiments with a weighing machine in "Margery's" presence are also reported in the "Banner of Life," and signs of supernormal interference were noted, when the medium was at some distance from the machine, and when experimenters were allowed to move their hands freely under and around it in every direction.

It is hoped that it may be possible one day to secure photographs showing the invisible loading which causes the alteration.

The same paper, on May 8th, deals with a new experiment in wax moulds. It will be remembered that in Malcolm Bird's book, "Margery," one experiment on this line is reported, but was never repeated. Now another attempt is claimed to be successful. It is said that two moulds were found in a pail of wax, with which neither the medium nor sitters had contact, one of a single man's hand, the other of a pair of hands. We shall hope to see further reports of this, as the production of wax moulds is a rare psychic phenomenon to-day, being practically confined to the medium Kluski.

* * * * *

The whole world must continue their admiration for these pioneers in their self-imposed and arduous labours.

A recent photograph of "Margery," which has reached the College, shows her placid and beautiful in spite of the year's hard work.

* * * * *

Meanwhile, writers in many American journals make her the theme of their pens. The editor of "Unity," of March 8th, which was inclined to take at its face value the report of the Harvard Committee in the "Atlantic Monthly," has revised its opinion in the light of Dr. Crandon's statements in "Margery, Harvard, Veritas," regarding signed records of sittings.

"Colliers" for May 8th has a picture of "Margery" holding the presentation loving cup, sent by some members of the College. The article on this "modern witch" scintillates with wit, and is based on

an interview with Margery, who relates some of her experiences with the scientists. One story runs: "A very famous psychic researcher from Europe came over to study the mediumship. He held many sittings. He was tremendously impressed by the independent voice of my deceased brother. He wanted to be sure this was not my voice, so he held his hand over my mouth and nose. But the voice came through as plainly. 'Now Doctor,' I said, 'isn't that convincing?' and what do you suppose he said?—'How do I know you don't talk through your ears?'"

* * * * *

That "Walter" the control's wit and quips are only one side of his personality is seen in the following verse, one of four, given in response to Dr. Crandon's sudden request to give him something to say at the grave of a friend next day. A brief pause, and "Walter's" voice without a break dictated four verses of which the following is the closing one:—

"Farewell, dear voyageur, the river winds and turn,
The cadence of your song wafts near to me,
And now you know the thing that all men learn,
There is no death, there's immortality."

* * * * *

The College is grateful to the following members who have so kindly remembered general needs during the present quarter:—

General Expenses Fund.

Mr. R. A. James (Kenya)	£1	1	0
Mrs. Fletcher (U.S.A.)	1	9	3
Mrs. Long	3	14	6
	<hr/>		
	£6	4	9
	<hr/>		

* * * * *

Mr. C. L. Tilburn, of Shanghai, has made a generous donation of £5 5s. to the Trust Fund in appreciation of help received from the College.

BOOK REVIEWS.

INTRODUCTION A LA MÉTAPHYSIQUE HUMAINE.

By M. René Sudre. (Payot, Paris. 25 fr.)

BY STANLEY DE BRATH.

This is by far the best and completest statement of the Animist Theory that has yet appeared. M. Sudre is the editor of the *Revue Métapsychique*, the organ of the International Métapsychic Institut (Paris), and is a recognised authority on supernormal phenomena, which, as they have not yet been admitted by official psychology, it has been necessary to designate by the name Meta- or Para-psychology.

It clears the ground by recognising the genuineness of many phenomena hitherto contested: for instance, Liébeault's case in which the auto-suggestion produced by Mme. Lenormand's prediction of death was neutralised by a completely successful counter-suggestion, which did not however prevent the death taking place at the time predicted (p. 177); Reichenbach's experiments with magnetic "effluvia"; photography of human emanations (p. 208); loss of weight during materialisation (p. 217); telekinetic phenomena, including Ochorowicz' experiment of stopping and starting the pendulum of a clock fixed to the wall without opening its case (p. 236); Zöllner's experiments with Slade (p. 261); deviation of the compass-needle; and, most curious of all, the creation in an unmagnetised knitting-needle of an isolated south pole without any complementary north pole (p. 252); apporpts; breaking up of matter; materialisation of animal forms (p. 276); photographic portraits and writings (p. 289); hauntings; all of these are definitely admitted and connected with ideo-plasticity of matter, of energy, and of mind. It is admitted also (p. 413) that "pure memory" persists (i.e., apparently, memory without any organism or vehicle); and also (p. 285) that to attempt to photograph materialisations without consent of the factitious secondary personalities is to court failure. It is even stated that in order to stimulate these personalities to action, they are often permitted to work the magnesium flash by their own telekinetic movement of the electric switch. M. Sudre goes so far as to say in his preface that sceptics are those who have never seen genuine phenomena, and that out of all those scientists who have studied the phenomena seriously, *there is not one* who has found them illusions. He dismisses conscious fraud with the just remark, that with the precautions taken by every competent experimentalist, conscious fraud can be eliminated from discussion; and "unconscious fraud" is only confusion in the sub-conscious mind of the medium between normal and abnormal means of reaching the desired result. Full recognition is given to the necessity for a calm mental and normal environment in experimentation; all detective tricks are both useless and pernicious. The scepticism towards facts reported by reliable observers has entirely disappeared.

For those facts there are two explanations: (1) Animism, which refers them wholly to faculties and powers of incarnate personalities; and (2) Spiritism, which requires the collaboration of the discarnate, or at any rate, of external "intelligent forces." M. Sudre is an uncompromising supporter of the former. He says in his preface:—

"The aversion of official science to our studies results largely from the absence of connected theory. The only doctrine to which psychical research has given rise is spiritism. Spiritism has been judged and rightly judged, for

fifty years past. We have had to re-open the case because of new data, worthy of consideration, but not such as to lead us to modify the verdict of psychologists—whether Janet, Flournoy, or William James. We may agree that spiritism is a convenient hypothesis and consolatory to a large number of persons who have an overweening estimate of their personality. Its great fault is that it is an indolent hypothesis: it explains everything in advance, rules and exceptions alike, and leaves nothing to be discovered. We need something more fruitful and therefore more true. Above all, we need a hypothesis less falsified by moral considerations, by anxiety as to good and evil, and by the needs of the heart."

That is to say that the alternative—"Animism or Spiritism"—is to be determined solely by the specific facts. This is perfectly correct from the purely scientific point of view. Each science verifies specific facts, altogether apart from moral or other considerations, compares and analyses them and endeavours to reach their proximate causes. The facts of chemistry, physics, astronomy, and all the exact sciences, are studied in this manner, and *prima facie* there would seem to be no reason for treating the supernatural facts otherwise. Those causes in the present case may or may not involve discarnate intelligences, but in either case the proofs are self-contained.

The definition proposed however is "Metapsychics is the science which has for its object physical and psychological phenomena due to forces that seem intelligent or to unknown faculties of the mind." If these possible "intelligent forces" should be discarnate spirits, as the alternative explanation maintains, the moral aspect comes in at once.

The leading principle adopted is "ideo-plasticity"—amenability to the representation of ideas by direct mental action—in four varieties: (1) the ideo-plasticity of the psychic being (*psychisme*) itself, i.e., the faculty of creating by dissociation temporary personalities; (2) the ideo-plasticity of matter, the faculty of transforming or moulding matter; (3) the ideo-plasticity of energy, the faculty of transforming or emitting energy; and (4) the faculty of psycho-cognition—perceiving things imperceptible by the normal senses. By these four, M. Sudre claims, all known phenomena can be explained; the spontaneous and pathological phenomena of multiple personalities; hypnotically-suggested pseudo-personalities; automatic writing and speaking "controls," and the like. These latter are all grouped under one head—*prosopopoeisis*—meaning the assumption of a mask; and are referred to the disaggregation of the activities which, when conjoined, make up the normal personality.

The grounds of this theory are, briefly, that artificially suggested hypnotic personalities closely resemble "controls," that trance is a hypnotic state, and that every class of phenomena can be traced from small beginnings up to complete manifestations. Materialisations begin with ectoplasmic clouds and luminous patches, half-formed fingers and hands, and go on to perfect faces and forms. Psycho-cognition extends from elementary perceptions of events and character, and psychometry with many errors, up to such perfect powers of penetration as have been observed with Ossowiecki, Kahn, and Bert Reese. Automatic writing begins with scribbles, and goes on through more and more complete stages to such factitious personalities as those of the *Imperator* group. These factitious personalities present a semblance or mask of reality, but are built up partly by dis-association of the sensitive's personality and partly by psycho-cognition. Every grade, from the lowest to the highest, can be accounted for by the interplay of the four faculties of the sub-conscious above mentioned.

"The faculty of ideo-plasticity explains how *prosopopoeisis* can ultimate in a material creation having all the traits of the mind that it mimics. A person gifted with the teleplastic faculty has no more difficulty in reproducing the phantom of a deceased person *whose memory he has captured** than in reproducing that of a living person such as President Poincaré, or in materialising a portrait that he has admired in a museum."

* My italics. The precise meaning of this is not clear to me.

We may cordially admit the principle of *ideo-plasticity*—that matter and energy are plastic to the *direct* action of Mind. In the case of energy this is the ordinary and normal power of Life. The newer aspects of Evolution are that the "tendency to vary" with which Darwin started (without enquiry as to its cause) is due to internal psychic power. With regard to matter, the ectoplasmic processes prove the same thing; moreover, it is worth notice that many communications (some of old date) assert that this power is normal to discarnate souls.

But the animistic theory does not seem to cover certain facts. For instance, in the case of Lieut. McKenzie's photograph. Mr. Hewat McKenzie visited Crewe; the conditions for a thought-form would seem to have been perfect, yet nothing was received; but the supernormal photograph appeared when no person who had ever seen the young officer was present in the studio. Many similar cases are on record. *Whose* mind produced the picture?

Again, does the theory cover the cases testified to by Mr. Dennis Bradley and his numerous witnesses, that the personalities speaking by the direct voice were produced in *rapid succession*, crowding on one another and alternating in intimate conversations? Does it cover the cases of visions by the dying, which, as Professor Bozzano points out, are *always* of deceased relatives, and *never* hallucinations of the presence of the living, however ardently desired? Does it cover such cases as that of Daisy Dryden which I have quoted in my book "Psychical Research, Science, and Religion," as the most perfect and best substantiated of these cases?

Is it not straining the theory of *ideo-plasticity* to suppose that these factitious personalities whose mentality is, *ex hypothesi*, created by the sitters, can precipitate writing or write on the photographic plate, and give directions and information quite foreign to the ideas of those present? It would seem that the animist theory claims that the mental action proceeding from the mentalities of the group experimenting, can create factitious and temporary personalities which can speak, can will, and can act. They can, when materialised, be photographed, and act in all respects as living beings for the time, contradicting, directing procedure, and carrying it out. They can write on the photographic plate in the hand of an alleged sender, telling experimenters what to do and giving promises that are fulfilled when the directions are observed and not otherwise. They can appear as unexpected friends, and even as strangers whom the medium has never met and of whom the sitters are not thinking, and these simulacra are able to speak in clear tones, often in foreign languages that the medium does not know, and to give information new to the sitter, with intimate personal details. They can oppose and refute arguments, as in Stainton Moses' case, and show a high morality which only breaks down when they actually claim to be the persons whom they represent. Then they are always lying, constrained thereto by the imaginations that created them.

The spiritist theory, on the other hand, gives a much simpler solution. It does not deny that many phenomena are due to the latent powers of the incarnate soul: on the contrary it maintains that such powers almost imply their continuance in the discarnate.

"Spiritualism," however, stands on a different basis: it is a philosophical inference rather than a scientific theory. The word has a recognised meaning in literature and philosophy: it is defined in the best large dictionary of the English language (Century Dict., vol. vii., p. 5,842) as "the philosophic doctrine of the existence of spirit as distinct from matter," and, secondarily, as "the belief that disembodied spirits can and do communicate with the living."

Primarily, therefore, it is the doctrine, common to all religions, that the order of the visible universe has an Intelligent Cause which Humanity in all ages has called Spirit or God. The ancient form of the doctrine was that God called the universe into being by fiat: the modern form is that the Life-Principle (Immanent Mind) is the manifestation of the Creative Power of God. The essence is the same in both cases.

Spiritist and animist theories are questions for science: spiritualism is a question of philosophy. Intelligent spiritualists do not believe in survival, because they have an overweening sense of the importance of their transitory personalities, but because the facts suggest this inference to common-sense; because it gives a meaning to earth-life; and because the results of obedience or disobedience to the law of the Spirit manifests an ethical principle inseparable from cosmic and personal evolution. Whether the phenomena prove survival or not (and personally I cannot imagine survival of memories without some intelligent etherial vehicle), they certainly prove the reality of intelligence which is not that of the brain. And when we see the same ideo-plasticity of matter to mind on the vast scale of Nature in which every unit of every species follows its specific directing idea, we perceive also that this gives the magic touch of reality to all the allegories under which creative action has been brought down to human understanding, and reveals an ideo-plastic law on a far grander scale than in any of our little "supernormal phenomena."

The Mind that directs this creative power also directs moral evolution. A. R. Wallace's demonstration that evolution is purposive to the development of a being possessed of sufficient spirituality to be fit to survive bodily death, is in agreement with every other fact that we know. It is quite possible, as Leibnitz thought, that minds are composed of monads, and that these coalesce till a personality sufficiently evolved to endure is built up. It is quite conceivable that the broad way of entirely sensuous life may lead to destruction of the personality by its not having sufficient spirituality to survive permanently. We do not know.

Nor are spiritualists greatly concerned with increase of knowledge, for the present perilous state of our civilisation is due to the fact that knowledge has far outstripped moral development. The exhortations to common-place morality that seem "mawkish homilies" to some scientific minds, are much more appropriate to the needs of the world than fresh lights in science. We welcome additions to positive knowledge; but much more important is the conviction that a future awaits us in which we reap exactly as we have sown. "Survival," moreover, is not "immortality," as spiritualists both incarnate and discarnate, have often pointed out. It is even probable that future persistence may depend on our following the evolutionary law of the Divine Spirit which promises immortality only to those who observe its conditions and subserve the progress of the race.

On all sides now we read of the need for a new temper, a new spirit, a new way of life, to settle social, economic, and international disputes. This is nothing more nor less than recognition that Our Lord's solution is the only one that can avail. He began His mission with the call *Meta-noeite*,—change your outlook. That word carries no sense of remorse for the past. When men understand that the real purpose of earth-life is the development of character—the only character that is fit to endure, without which the future life is a grey misery—the character that is truthful, honest, industrious, sincere, kindly, sympathetic, intelligent and wise—then they will find the solution to all the social and economic questions that perplex us now.

Every human relation is a psychic relation—seller to buyer, employer to employed, parent to child, man to woman, and woman to man. Each and every one of these is harmonious and happy in the exact ratio to which those spiritual qualities are developed. Our civilisation is the mirror of our collective mentality.

Spiritualism is faith in a rational universe of cause and effect, in which the faculties, sporadic and supernormal here, are there the means whereby all character is naked and open, where each is seen exactly as he is without a shred of disguise, the inwardly beautiful as outwardly beautiful, and the inwardly vile as outwardly vile. Not by judicial sentence, but by strict consequence do the deformed in mind prefer the outer darkness to the piercing ray; and in that darkness gather the unclean, the tyrannical, whether kings or Communists, murderers and despoilers, and all that loveth or maketh a lie. And in the messages that come to us from the Unseen it is insisted on, everywhere

and in every land, that forms of theological belief or unbelief are of no effect : the Law of Spiritual Consequence produces its unerring results.

“ THE LAND OF MIST.”

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 7s. 6d. net. (Hutchinson and Co.)

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle breaks a further lance on behalf of his beloved Cause, Spirit-Return in the kaleidoscopic view of the subject presented in “ The Land of Mist.”

The clearly, if sometimes roughly, drawn pictures of the fight the Spiritualists are carrying through, were first published in serial form in the “ Strand ” Magazine last year, a notable achievement in itself, and were read by thousands who would probably never handle the complete book.

There they sometimes seemed a trifle thin and sketchy when waited for month by month, but going through them again in book form, I find the articles possess a grip and coherence which makes the book a welcome contribution to all who would see us as we are to-day.

Spiritualism has its lights and shadows, its humour and pathos, its comedy and tragedy, often in most violent contrast. In the book before us our opponents are rolled in one, in the tremendous personality of Professor Challenger, and surely no convert could make more gentle amends when he finds he has been tilting at windmills, of his own invention, instead of at the realities of the subject. In Sir John Roxton and Augustus Mailey and Dr. Atkinson, we see the cultured witnesses to the truths of psychic realities, spending no end of time in tracking down these often elusive facts and in explaining them to other inquirers.

Malone and Enid are, we believe, types of journalistic brains, which will, if not entirely on our side, hold at any rate even scales on our behalf, in the future. The Editors of “ Dawn ” and of another Spiritualistic paper are sketched to life, as are also some well-known and easily recognisable workers in the field. The service and difficulties of such service as that of the medium is admirably portrayed, and so literally do some readers from abroad and elsewhere take Sir Arthur's vivid sketches, that the College has had several requests to make appointments with “ Mr. Linden of Tullis Street.” The College itself and its workers receive honourable mention from Sir Arthur, and several important scenes are laid there, notably the conversion of Professor Challenger, not by the medium brought for the purpose, who is overawed and browbeaten by his rude strength, but by the natural sensitivity of his own loved daughter, who in the heightened vibration of the séance room, becomes herself entranced, and gives her father a message relating to a former episode in his life, unknown to all but himself, which lifts from his mind a cloud which had rested upon it for years.

The first chapter has the most perfect picture of a local Spiritualistic Sunday evening meeting I have seen. The Rescue Circle is another magnificently drawn sketch. The miracle of healing is not unknown to us, and the grim haunted house in which a clergyman of our acquaintance wrestles with spiritual powers and relieves the psychic condition of one poor soul is as powerfully drawn as any picture which has ever come from the author's powerful pen.

The scientific side is set forth in the sketch of the Paris Laboratory.

All students of the subject should get and read this book as a matter of education and interest to themselves. The descriptive matter is racy, and the action powerful, and running through it all is the sense of earnest devotion and sacrifice given by its adherents to a great and unpopular cause, which is bound to win with such protagonists.

The high and humble, the intellectual and the uneducated, all make their contribution to what is really the one great question before the world to-day : a question on the answer to which our civilisation may rise or fall as the old prophet Miromar in the book suggests, the question “ If a man die shall he live again?”

"THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM."

By Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. 2 Volumes, 42s. net. (Messrs. Cassell and Co., Ltd.).

All students should possess themselves of this latest History of Spiritualism. The facts presented have been compiled with great care from the best authorities extant. The subject is so manifestly to-day dependent for its advance on the most accurate knowledge of both past and present psychic experiences, that this History arrives at an opportune moment.

The volumes will be reviewed more fully in a further issue.

"THE PSYCHIC IN THE HOUSE."

By Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, Ph.D.

This book represents Vol. I. of the *Proceedings* of the Boston Society for Psychical Research. It consists solely of a monograph by Dr. Walter Franklin Prince, formerly Research Officer of the American S.P.R. in New York, now acting in the same capacity for the Boston S.P.R. It deals with the later phenomena afforded by our old friend Doris Fischer, whose case of obsession, or multiple personality, is so fully described by the author in the A.S.P.R. *Proceedings*, Vol. IX. and X., and by Dr. Hyslop in his 866-page contribution to Vol. XI. Doris, we learn, is now named Theodosia, or "Psychic," and is the foster-daughter of Dr. Prince. The book is a detailed record of two classes of phenomena, raps and crystal visions; and there is also an account of some interesting phenomena of poltergeist character, in which beds and chairs were shaken and footsteps and other noises heard in the passages and coal cellar. Theodosia was the principle medium, but Dr. Prince himself was evidently a medium, for raps and other phenomena occurred in his presence alone. Theodosia wrote automatically messages from the putative spirit operators, who comprised Pelham and Hodgson, still apparently in friendly co-operation in spirit life. She also saw crystal visions representing former deceased tenants of the house then occupied by Dr. Prince, and written messages. The visions were ascertained to be evidential, by reference to relatives of the deceased relatives.

The rapping phenomena were feeble, some only Theodosia heard, for Dr. Prince was rather deaf. Even Pelham, who purported to be the principal rapper, was disheartened, for he said: "I think all this writing and talking about conversation with raps are all bosh, for I am an intelligent spirit and I have given it a fair trial with an expert to judge."

Dr. Prince is a careful, painstaking recorder, but, like many other sceptical, scientific researchers, seems to lack confidence in his own competence to observe even simple things. There is always a doubt at the back of his mind, freely expressed, that perhaps he might be mistaken. For instance, in describing one of the major phenomena, where his bed shook and rocked so much as to produce a feeling of nausea, he said: "On the night of July 23, 1921, my bed shook, or at least a powerful impression to that effect was produced upon my consciousness, as recorded the next day."

Most readers will find the book tedious and prolix, but the author admits as much when he says: "Had I been preparing this book with no higher object than the greatest entertainment of the greatest number, I should undoubtedly have summarised many of the entries, especially those which repeat the same scene." It is curious that he makes no reference to previous records of rapping phenomena, especially those of such a careful and capable experimenter as the late Dr. Crawford of Belfast.

A. CAMPBELL HOLMS.

" PSYCHE "

(" The Cult of Souls and Belief in Immortality among the Greeks.")

By Erwin Rhode. pp. 626; 25s. net. (Kegan Paul, London.)

We have here an English translation, by W. B. Hillis, M.A., of the 8th edition of this famous work, the first edition of which was published as long ago as 1893. As the sub-title indicates, it deals with the varied beliefs of the ancient Greeks regarding immortality and a future life. With these ancient people, as with us, there was no uniformity in belief, some believed in the survival of the soul, and others denied it, but, mixed up with it all, there were many and varied superstitions, for the most part gloomy and repellent. All these the reader will find set out in this book with the utmost particularity and detail. To the patient Greek scholar, imbued with a philosophical desire for detailed knowledge of the superstitions and funeral ceremonies of ancient peoples, the study of this English edition of Rohde's standard work will doubtless be a long-deferred pleasure.

A. CAMPBELL HOLMS.

" EDIE."

By W. Harold Speer. 3s. 6d net. (Rider and Co.)

The writer of the above is a well-known detective, and the introduction is written by a well-known journalist—Hannen Swaffer—both men came to a knowledge of the reality of psychic facts about the same time.

The loss of a dearly-loved daughter sent Mr. Speer questing on these matters, and to his amazement he found the door opening for him on many hands. Loved ones seeking on both sides of the veil must meet—this mutual effort often makes all the difference between success and failure in psychic investigation. Mr. Speer mentions his indebtedness to the mediumship of Mr. T. Austin for some excellent manifestations.

" FROM THE DEAD."

By Recorder. 1s. net. (Fowler and Co.)

This record of psychic experiences has an interesting foreword by the Rev. Fielding-Ould.

He allows as legitimate the possibility of Spiritualistic facts reaching where the teachings of Christianity have failed. The writer mentions the mediumship of Mr. Vout Peters as having been particularly helpful to him in his efforts to prove survival.

" HOW SPIRITS COMMUNICATE."

(What methods they use and what they tell us.)

By the Rev. G. Vale Owen. 1s. 6d. net. (Hutchinson and Co.)

This is an excellent little book to place in the hands of those looking into psychic evidence.

Mr. Vale Owen carries on pleasant conversation with his reader—the book was in fact based on an address given in various places—and anticipates many of the objections raised against methods of communications from the other

side, showing them to be perfectly natural aspects, though foreign to our five senses.

The fact and faculties of the psychic body are wisely explained, and the right use of these is stimulated by the instruction which Mr. Vale Owen puts before his readers in such a reasonable fashion.

"AN OCCULT VIEW OF HEALTH AND DISEASE."

By Geoffrey Hodson. 2s. 6d. net; paper 1s. 6d. (Theosophical Publishing House, Ltd.)

This useful book deals with Man as a Unit, functioning on mental, psychical and physical planes, through whom pours the stream of the life force, which when unhindered produces perfect health in all his being.

Anything in thought or habit which hinders the free flow of the life force produces disorder or ill-health. Such is the author's view, and Mr. Hodson's method of cure is that of all Spiritual Healers, viz., to call the attention of the sufferer to the necessity of removing these limiting thoughts from the mind. Remarkable cures have been obtained by this method in the experience of the writer.

"THE VOICE."

By Joan Halford. 1s. 6d. net. (Rider and Co.)

This is the kind of book which makes us wonder how it found a publisher. It has a Grand Guignol touch about it as the bright red of its cover indicates, but the contents are puerile, and give a picture of a purely pathological case, which in no sense can be regarded as deciding the question as to whether it is useful or otherwise to make psychic experiments.

Doctors warn certain temperaments to avoid the Derby, on risks of becoming thoroughly unbalanced, but that in psychic investigation ordinary persons "run risks unthinkable, if things are as I suspect," whatever these last cryptic words mean, is nonsense.

"There is no estimating the devastating power of things supernatural upon the lives of those who are led into or seek contact with them," is another over-statement. I could just as truly say, from long personal experience for myself and with others, of such contacts, "There is no estimating the up-lifting power of things supernatural upon the lives of those who seek." I am rather surprised that a good firm should publish such a rhodomontade.

THE PSYCHOLOGY AND DEVELOPMENT OF MEDIUMSHIP.

By Horace Leaf, F.G.S. Rider and Co. 10s. 6d. net.

Psychic students are particularly fortunate to-day in the splendid modern literature at their command, and Mr. Leaf's present, and most ambitious volume so far produced by him on psychic matters, is of great value. He is a practical student, with wide use of his own mediumistic faculty, which, as Mr. Hewat McKenzie points out in a foreword, means understanding of the whole matter; and he is also a student, searching here and there, and satisfying himself from every point of view as to the relations psychic sensitivity holds to science and psychology to-day. His travels have brought the author into

touch with mediumship in other lands, and amongst native races, and he has not neglected these opportunities.

The book is opportune, for we have only two or three handbooks which deal with development in its various aspects, and the present volume not only guides but instructs. It should be invaluable to send to those in the provinces or in foreign countries who are anxiously looking into this matter and have but little wise guidance. Mr. Leaf's contributions to geographical matters during his visit to Australia have recently gained him the distinction of a Fellow of the Geographical Society, upon which we congratulate him.

" COUNSEL FROM THE HEAVENLY SPHERES."

By Heather B. Post Free 1s. 2d.

Lovers of the teaching of this little book, will be glad to know that a reprint has been made through the kindness of the London Spiritual Mission, 12, Pembridge Place, from whom it can be obtained.

CURRENT PERIODICALS.

The Journal of the American Society for Psychical Research, under the Editorship of Mr. Malcolm Bird, Research Officer on *Physical Phenomena* for the Society, has much to say in its issues from January to May, of Continental Mediumship, chiefly that of Willy and Rudi Schneider from the pen of Mr. Harry Price and Captain Kogelnik of Braunau, also an article on Frau Silbert, with a very indifferent photograph, by the former writer.

In view of the dearth of news of the "Margery" mediumship, in England, and the Continent, and its importance, it would be greatly appreciated if the Editor of this Journal could offer students some guidance re the various experiments recorded in the "Banner of Life," a Boston weekly.

Pages of gossip on English mediumship should not usurp the place of such articles, to follow the Editor's first and valuable study in his book "Margery."

The Moss case is fully discussed by the Editor in the January issue, and some severe strictures are made on the whole subject of psychic photography. Mr. McKenzie replies in the April issue, reiterating his expressed opinion that in view of the discovery of Moss's despicable character, no value whatever can be placed upon experiments or any recognitions claimed through him.

The late Dr. Geley, probably had to say something of the same kind re the medium Erto, on whose work he had carefully reported. When he found him a fraud as far as the production of psychic lights was concerned, he simply wiped out as worthless any previous statements he had made. This is exactly what Mr. McKenzie did in the above case.

The slate writing of Mrs. Pruden is dealt with in the March and April issues by several experimenters who have had one sitting each with her. The reports are necessary therefore inconclusive, and will not satisfy the many who think very highly of Mrs. Pruden's long record of mediumship in this phase.

René Sudre, Editor of the "Revue Métapsychique," contributes a monthly article on various subjects to the American Journal.

"The ideas of Hans Driesch"; "The Rôle of Prosopopoeisis in Psychical Research" (see Stanley De Brath's article in present issue); "A New Clairvoyant," experiences with Pascal Forthuny, the French writer, and an article on the "Gordon Davis" case in the May issue cover his able contributions.

*The "Revue Métapsychique" for Jan.-Feb., and March-April issues has interesting articles on the clairvoyant and psychometric powers of Pascal Forthuny from the pen of Dr. Osty, Director of the Institute, in which the séances giving to illustrate his remarkable mediumship are recorded at length. M. Forthuny's development as a medium is rare among men of his age and mental calibre.

The passing of Gabriel Delanne, a member of the Council of the Institute, and one of the early pioneers of psychical research in France, is lamented. Articles on the human Magnetic Ray by two contributors raises the question of the mesmeric force and the power of the Healer. The article is accompanied by interesting illustrations.

The "British Journal of Psychical Research," adds another to the responsible journals dealing with psychic science, it is a bi-monthly, price one shilling, and is the official organ of the National Laboratory of Psychical Research, whose headquarters are at 16, Queensberry Place, South Kensington.

A portrait of Stella C., the physical medium, appears, with the statement that good results are being obtained with her in a series of new experiments employing laboratory methods. A description of the new well-equipped

Laboratory with photographs is given. An article on Pseudo-psychic manifestations records the fooling of a self-deluded person, and seems somewhat out of place amongst records of mediumistic results.

"The Quest" for April, 1926, under the Editorship of Mr. G. R. S. Mead, an Honorary member of the College, indicates that a new series of this valuable quarterly will begin in October, after a break of one issue. Mr. Mead, it may be news to some to know, was at one time private secretary to Madame Blavatsky. In a review of the past work of the Quarterly he takes occasion to deal with his connection with the Theosophical movement, and with the reasons for his severance therefrom, thinking that many new students to-day may be ignorant of or misunderstand the reasons for the controversy and resulting separation of some of the most devoted Theosophists. Out of this division sprang the "Quest" and the Quest Society, one of the objects of which is "to promote inquiry into the nature of religious and other super-normal experiences and the means of testing their value." An excellent portrait of Mr. Mead, whose erudition and long association with such studies have made him a master on some subjects accompanies the article.

The College Library.

THE following books have been added to the Library since April 1st, 1926, and the Honorary Secretary is grateful to the following members and friends who have made gifts: Mrs. F. E. Leaning, Dr. and Mrs. Crandon, Mrs. E. Bird, Mrs. Burd.

*Aygalliers, A. W. d'	...	"Ruysbroëck the Admirable." (Mystic.)
Anonymous	...	"Light on the Future."
*Barr, Sir James	...	"Abram's Method of Diagnosis and Treatment."
Binet, Alfred, and C. Fere	...	"Animal Magnetism."
Crowe, Catherine	...	"The Night Side of Nature." Vols. 1 and 2.
*Doyle, Sir Arthur Conan	...	"The Land of Mist." Second copy.
"	...	"The History of Spiritualism." Vols. 1 and 2.
"	...	"Our American Adventure." Second copy.
*Hodson, Geoffrey	...	"An Occult View of Health and Disease."
Houghton, Miss	...	"Chronicles of Spirit Photography."
*Hyslop, Professor J. H.	...	American S.P.R., Vol. xix.
Lawrence, Edward	...	Mrs. Chenoweth's Mediumship.
*Leaf, Horace	...	"Spiritualism Among Civilised and Savage Races."
Lees, Robert J.,	...	"The Psychology and Development of Mediumship."
O'Byrne, F. D., B.A.	...	"The Life Elysian."
Owen, Rev. G. Vale	...	Reichenbach's Letters on Od and Magnetism."
Patrick, Vincent	...	"How Spirits Communicate."
Smith, W. Whately	...	"The Case against Spirit Photographs."
*Prince, Walter F.	...	"The Psychic in the House."
Recorder	...	"From the Dead."
*Rhode, Erwin	...	"Psyche."
*Speer, Harold, W.	...	"Edie."
*Stevenson, Robert L.	...	"The Merry Men."
Wilmot, Thomas S.	...	"Twenty Photographs of the Risen Dead."
Wilmshurst, W. L.	...	"The Meaning of Masonry."
"	...	"The Masonic Initiation."

* New Books.

New Library Catalogue, 1s. 2d. post free.

THE HISTORY OF SPIRITUALISM.

BY
ARTHUR CONAN DOYLE.

Sir Arthur Conan Doyle gives a full account of Modern Spiritualism from the time of Swedenborg to the present day. He sketches the lives of the important men and women who have taken part in the movement and makes clear what the evidence was which induced them to give their support to this new revelation.

The Author does not shun the difficulties, but faces them with complete frankness and with an amount of personal experience which enables him to drive home his points. It has been aptly said that Spiritualism is "either nothing or else everything." The reader of this history will be in a position to make the choice for himself.

Published by Messrs. CASSELL & Co. Should be read by all students

Two Volumes, Medium 8vo., with 8 Plates in Each Volume.
£2 2s. net the Set.

From the Psychic Bookshop, Abbey House, Victoria Street, S.W.

The GLASTONBURY SCRIPTS.

- | | | |
|--------|--|---------------------|
| No. 1. | The Return of Johannes. <i>Second Edition</i> ,
with appendices | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 2. | <i>Out of print</i> (see "Company of Avalon") | |
| No. 3. | Hugh of Avalon | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 4. | Life of Ailnoth, Abbot of Glaston | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 5. | The Vision of the Holy Grail (metrical) | 1s. net. |
| No. 6. | The Rose Miraculous (metrical). (Story of
the Sangreal) | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 7. | Full Life of St. Hugh of Avalon and Lincoln. | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 8. | The Story of Joseph of Arimathea | 1s. 6d. net. |
| No. 9. | The Story of King Arthur | 1s. net. |

(Add for postage, 2d.)

To be obtained of the Secretary, G. S., 4, Stratford Road, Kensington, W.8.

The "Gate of Remembrance" and "The Company of Avalon" are
also in stock. Price 7s. 6d. each net, post 8s.

COLLEGE INFORMATION.

During the Autumn and Winter Sessions, Courses of Lectures and Instruction on many subjects are undertaken, to which members and non-members are welcome.

Among the Autumn Lecturers are :—

Mr. J. Arthur Hill, Captain J. A. Bartlett, Mr. Cotesworth Bond, Mr. Staveley Bulford, Mr. W. S. Hendry, Mr. Hewat McKenzie and others.

DEMONSTRATIONS.

GROUP DEMONSTRATION for Mental Mediumship. (Bookings required)
Tuesdays at 3.30 p.m.

PUBLIC CLAIRVOYANCE—Fridays at 8 p.m. (*See Syllabus.*)

MRS. BLANCHE COOPER—Voice Phenomena. Private Appointments and Groups.

MRS. BARKEL—Trance Mediumship. Private Appointments, and Class and Private Development.

MRS. VICKERS—Clairvoyance. Private Appointments, and Class and Private Development.

MRS. GARRETT—Trance Mediumship. Private Appointments.

MISS GRACE COLLYNS—Clairvoyance, Psychometry and Aura Readings.

MRS. SHARPLIN—Clairvoyance and Psychic Development.

MR. G. SHARPLIN—Trance Diagnosis of Disease, and Treatment. (Highly recommended). Free Healing Group, Thursdays, 8 p.m.

PHYSICAL PHENOMENA. The College is visited from time to time by important mediums. Private intimation made to members.

Conditions of Membership of the College.

All Applications for membership should be made on the College forms provided for the purpose. These should be accompanied by suitable references, and privilege is reserved to accept same.

The membership is limited to 500 members, so that adequate attention can be given to individual needs, and the names and addresses of members are not published.

TOWN MEMBERS	Entrance Fee	...	...	...	1 Guinea.
	Yearly Subscription	...	...	...	3 Guineas.
COUNTRY MEMBERS	Entrance Fee	...	...	...	1 Guinea.
	Yearly Subscription	...	...	...	2 Guineas.
ASSOCIATE and FOREIGN MEMBERSHIP	Entrance Fee	...	...	...	1 Guinea.
	Yearly Subscription	...	...	...	1 Guinea.

Where more than one member of a family becomes a member the entrance fee for the second member is relaxed, and for such member the Town yearly subscription is fixed at 2 guineas and the Country at 1½ guineas.

Members may join at any time of the year by payment of current quarter's fee and entrance fee.

WHY THE BRITISH COLLEGE MERITS YOUR SUPPORT AS A MEMBER.

BECAUSE it is the only place in Britain where the ordinary member can carry out varied experiments under good conditions, and can consider and compare them with the experiences of others.

BECAUSE it provides classes for wise instruction in psychic development, and possesses a large and up-to-date loan Library.

BECAUSE without such a centre and its due support the subject will suffer under the over critical and unduly limited methods of one body, or lose in the general mass of unrecorded matter of other Societies that sane and careful attention which the College embodies in records published in its valuable Journal.

OTHER GREAT SCIENCES which do not mean so much to human life as Psychic Science have ample means provided by interested students.

Give the College steady support by Town, Country or Associate Membership, so that the work can go forward unimpeded.

THE PSYCHIC BOOKSHOP, LIBRARY AND MUSEUM.

MANAGER : R. G. Monier Williams.

PROPRIETOR : Sir A. Conan Doyle.

Only psychic books are stocked, but any books will be supplied to Order.

Circulating Library 2/6 per month. Books sent by post at small extra expense.

The latest important American books, such as Malcolm Bird's "Margery" and Dr. Wickland's "Thirty Years Among the Dead," may be obtained.

Priced Catalogues sent out on application.

Those in search of the older books on Psychic subjects will find a choice selection, a new catalogue of which is in the press.

Inspection invited.

Museum of Psychic Objects of Interest Now Open.

ABBAY HOUSE, VICTORIA STREET, S.W.